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RELEASE 1 JULY 2015

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July 2, 1969

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RAR-B-8  
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Dr. John S. Foster, Jr.  
 Director, Defense Research and Engineering  
 Department of Defense  
 Pentagon  
 Washington, D.C. 20310

Dear Dr. Foster:

In his recent announcement regarding the cancellation of the Manned Orbital Laboratory Program, Deputy Secretary of Defense Packard referred to advances in automated techniques for unmanned satellite systems. Subsequently, a similar statement was attributed to you in the trade press.

The Subcommittee on Space Science and Applications of the House Science and Astronautics Committee has the responsibility of reviewing and authorizing the NASA Space Applications Program each year. One of the projects in this program is the Earth Resources Technology Satellite, an experimental spacecraft now under development which is designed to survey the earth's surface. The data produced by such a satellite system is expected to have great significance for agriculture, geology and oceanography, among other scientific disciplines.

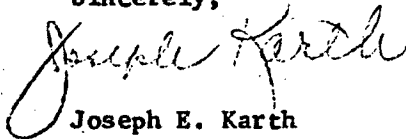
The Members of our Committee are very enthusiastic about the potential of such a system, and we have urged NASA to pursue the development program aggressively.

The recent statements by you and Secretary Packard have raised questions in my mind as to the extent that technological developments achieved in DOD unmanned satellite systems might be applicable to the ERTS project.

It seems to me that certain equipment, subsystems, sensors or techniques developed by the Department of Defense might be of use to NASA. May I have your advice on this matter? Perhaps a classified briefing might be in order.

Thanking you in advance for your assistance, I am

Sincerely,



Joseph E. Karth  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Space  
Science and Applications

Mr Palley will answer citing the  
specific improvements which have  
made automated flight a  
competitor to manned flight  
and referencing Taffel's testimony  
that there are no barriers  
between NASA's ERIS folks  
& the DOD

W. J. 9 Jul 69

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SECURITY CLASSIFICATION  
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ALZICOM  
SUBJECT: Cancellation of MOL Program

The Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program (USAF Program 632A) was cancelled on 10 Jun 1969. Hardware material, and information in the MOL Program is not declassified or downgraded because the program has been cancelled. All commands are reminded that security requirements for MOL remain in force until revised or deleted thru appropriate channels. Request widest possible dissemination. GP-4.

DATE	TIME
8	
MONTH	YEAR
JULY	1969
PAGE NO.	NO. OF PAGES
1	1

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