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Date: JUN 11 2015

17 APR 1979

Committee on Armed Services
ATTN: Mr. Tom Cooper
Room 2120
Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Tom:

As a follow-up to our recent conversation regarding MSP, I am attaching a brief paper that describes our approach for selecting the future direction of our space-based missile surveillance programs. It is, essentially, a condensed version of the testimony I gave to the HAC Defense Appropriations Subcommittee. As you will note, we intend to reach an OSD position and take our plans to Congress this summer. In the meantime, I encourage you to support our FY80 budget request so that the candidate options remain open.

/s/ Sy

S. L. Zeiberg
Deputy Under Secretary
Strategic & Space Systems

Attachment

MR. YOST/pjb/57327
OUSDRE(DS)/17APR79

Dir., DS *[initials]*

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SPACE-BASED MISSILE SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMS

(U) In conjunction with the Air Force, OSD has decided on an approach for determining the future direction of our space-based missile surveillance programs. This approach has been briefed to the House Appropriations Committee by OSD and the Air Force during testimony to support a reprogramming action for the Missile Surveillance Technology (MST) Program.

(U) Attachment A is a chart which illustrates the steps we will be following. The key feature of the plan is an OSD review of space-based missile surveillance requirements (as part of a broader review of all missile warning programs) and the selection of the proper programmatic option to meet the agreed upon requirements. The driving issues are the need for a follow-on system to DSP and the technological and programmatic approaches for satisfying a need, should one exist.

(S) Several of the efforts noted in the chart are presently underway. The Air Force is currently reviewing the requirements to upgrade our missile surveillance capability. Also, as a consequence of the favorable MST reprogramming decision, the Air Force should now be continuing the development and evaluation of mosaic focal planes, refining the preliminary designs of prototype and operational systems, and conducting detailed

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planning for possible follow-on prototype and operational systems. Following completion of these tasks, the information on the requirements and on the systems designs, including focal plane technology, should be brought together by the Air Force for development of options and recommendations. As a part of this exercise, DARPA HALO technologies must be specifically considered and exploited as appropriate so that the combined set of options fully reflects all the ongoing relevant technology developments.

~~(S)~~ The options that are developed should encompass a full range of possibilities including (a) continuing with the present DSP for the foreseeable future, (b) incorporating SED into DSP, (c) initiating MSP development after several years and taking extensive advantage of DARPA technologies, and (d) immediately initiating development of a follow-on to DSP based principally upon the Mosaic Sensor Technology. For each case a cost-benefit assessment must be made, the penalty for not taking action should be defined, the system designs including the essential technologies should be defined, and a program plan should be developed.

(U) In order that we may be in a position to incorporate the results in a review of tactical warning programs and take our plans to Congress this summer, the options and recommendations must be prepared by the Air Force and presented to OSD by 1 June 1979.

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