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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

28 FEB 1965

OSD HAS NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION AND RELEASE.

Honorable John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

Dear John:

Your letter of February 5, 1965 refers to the Congressional hearings for the NRO budget in FY 1966. Modifications to the procedure followed last year are, of course, possible. As you know, last year Charlie Hitch and Harold Brown presented the budget to Congressional committees and Dr. McMillan did not participate in the presentation. Since the presentation and substantiation of this budget is the responsibility of the executive agent, we had planned to follow the same procedure this year. We planned to ask Brown and Hitch to do the presenting and the supporting again and to keep the DNRO in the background to reduce the number of detailed questions that could be asked.

The modification of last year's procedure to include members of the CIA in these discussions may well be useful. Presence of members of your organization could be helpful in responding to any questions which may arise relative to the financial management, accounting and contracting [Redacted]

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[Redacted] / On the other hand, we should be careful lest, by modifying our procedure, we encourage protracted hearings in the area of appropriations. As you correctly stated, separate generalized discussions were held with you, Senator Russell, and elements of the Department of Defense; it might well be that continuation of this procedure would be better.

OSD and NRO
review(s) completed.

We should separately examine the clearance situation for such projects as the SR-71, YF-12A, J-58 engine and 417 weather satellite. I believe that these items will be subjected to a careful examination by broader elements of the committee than heretofore. For this reason, information regarding clearances of members of these committees is essential for DOD witnesses to properly plan their answers. Please let us have such information as soon as is convenient.

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It seems to me that your suggestion of adding CIA personnel to the DOD presentation of the NRP to the Congress so as to emphasize the joint character of the program is a healthy one. I would suggest that, together with information regarding clearance of the elements of Congress, you will let us know who will represent CIA when Mr. Hitch and Dr. Brown will be called by the Appropriation Committees. It may well be that, if this new procedure is employed, we will also ask Dr. McMillan to be present; your opinion on this whole issue will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature consisting of a large, stylized capital letter 'G' followed by a vertical line that curves to the right at the bottom.

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