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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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October 22, 1969

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Dear Dave:

I understand that the focus of our November meeting of EXCOM will be a discussion of those trade-offs among the various NRP programs that would be necessary to reduce the NRP FY 1971 budget from the [Redacted] required by our FY 1970 decisions to an amount substantially less than that.

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It seems likely that any large reduction will, among other things, force a direct competition for funds between photographic systems and SIGINT systems, and in particular between the [Redacted] satellite and [Redacted]. I will find this a very difficult judgment to make, both because these systems perform functions which are not competitive or comparable and because each seems very important in its own right.

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Therefore, I would feel much more comfortable if, for our November deliberations, we could have information about some of the other trade-off alternatives that might be possible, particularly those in the non-satellite SIGINT areas. I understand the stringency of the budget and the necessity for all programs to take their share of the reductions that are required. However, I suppose there is no inviolate reason for keeping the NRP budget [Redacted] if, indeed, it becomes apparent that reductions in other areas would provide a

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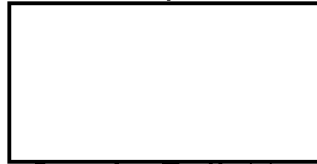
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more effective total national program. Therefore, I would like to request that as your staff prepare for the Executive Committee meeting in November, they perform whatever analyses are necessary to provide the Committee with information that will allow it to make judgments between the NRP systems and corresponding programs in the CCP and the CIP.

Sincerely,



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Lee A. DuBridge
Science Adviser

✓ cc:Richard Helms

The Honorable David Packard
Deputy Secretary of Defense
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20301

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