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64-6622



THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

23 SEP 1964

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

Dear John:

I appreciate receiving your prompt interim reply on the National ELINT Plan (NEP). As we have previously discussed, action is necessary to get better statements of USIB substantive intelligence requirements for application to specific collection sources. I certainly agree, therefore, that it will be most useful for the SIGINT Committee to develop better statements of the intelligence requirements for ELINT collection for national purposes.

I feel, however, that the function of preparing a monthly projection of peripheral reconnaissance flights is essentially one of determining, on the basis of technical and operational considerations, the tasks which should be assigned to the available platforms in order to meet approved requirements. I consider that the new procedures directed in the NEP for airborne ELINT collection activities should result in proposed monthly projections of ELINT flights which are technically and operationally sound and are directly relevant to requirements. There seems no need, therefore, for referring the monthly projections to USIB prior to action by the 303 Committee, and I feel that such action would unduly complicate the conduct of these important and highly sensitive operations.

Sincerely,

BY

OSD REVIEW COMPLETED

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