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Executive Registry
63-9110

10 DEC 1950

The Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Ros:

This refers to your proposed joint memorandum on "Establishment of NRP Review Committee," which formalizes the agreement we reached in our meeting on 23 October to establish procedures for monitoring the National Reconnaissance Program.

As you know, I have previously designated Dr. Wheelon to act as my monitor under the terms of the basic Agreement, and I also look to General Carter for occasional assistance in this regard. Carter and Wheelon met with Fubini and McMillan on 5 December at Fubini's suggestion. I am informed that Dr. Fubini proposed that this group meet biweekly, alternating the office meeting place; that the chairman as such would likewise alternate for each meeting and be responsible for keeping such minutes as might be required as well as furnishing the coffee. I understand this informal working arrangement was agreed by all and that they will meet again the third week in December.

Since the meetings already seem to be well started, I suggest that we proceed in accordance with Fubini's proposal. I would hope also that you and I could meet periodically, perhaps monthly, to receive status reports and recommendations from this monitoring group.

Sincerely,

KI

John A. McCone
Director

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6 December 1963

MR. McCONE:

General Carter and Bud Wheelon have both reviewed attached letter from Mr. Gilpatric on the proposed NRP review committee.

They both feel that you should not sign this letter.

Their comments are attached.


W. Elder

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6 December 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. McCONE

1. Please note that the attached proposal by Gilpatric establishes a review committee for NRO in which the chairman of the committee is the Director of NRO and the two members of the committee are the monitors designated by McNamara and you to review the Program on behalf of both of you in accordance with the NRO Agreement. This makes no more sense than my chairing a committee on which you and Secretary McNamara are members.

2. Wheelon, McMillan, Fubini and I met in the Pentagon on the morning of 5 December and we all agreed to meet bi-weekly. We will take turns meeting in one of our four offices, and the man in whose office the meeting will be held will act as chairman and will be responsible for keeping appropriate minutes (he would also furnish the coffee). All four members will suggest agenda items to the man who will chair the next meeting. Fubini chaired the 5 December session and our next meeting is scheduled for December 17 in McMillan's office. The meeting following that will be in my office and then in Wheelon's office and so on ad infinitum. It was agreed that only two copies of the minutes would be kept: one for CIA and one for DOD; and that the minutes will be closely sequestered. This procedure makes abundant sense to me since it results in a family type picnic, with a different bastard each meeting. These meetings should provide worthwhile review of the NRP, in accordance with the intent of the Gilpatric letter.

3. Incidentally, I suspect that McMillan authored the Gilpatric letter and that Fubini is unaware of it since it was Fubini who took the lead at the 5 December meeting in suggesting the ways in which the four of us can proceed.

4. Since I will not be at the morning meeting because of my annual physical exam and since I will be in bed with a whole passel of Marine generals from 10:30 through lunch, I wanted you to have my views as soon as possible.

M. S. C.
DDCI

*Dictated but not read
by DDCI*

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