

*S. NRO*

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28 MAY 1964

The Honorable McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President  
for National Security Affairs  
The White House

Dear Mac:

On May 25th I received your letter of May 22nd transmitting a copy of the President's Foreign Intelligence Advisory Board's report and recommendations on the NRO. You asked for my comments at the earliest convenient time and in any event no later than June 1st.

As you know this subject has been under discussion, more or less continually, ever since the NRO was conceived in the summer of 1961. I have found it extremely difficult to distill my thoughts on the subject and to arrive at a conclusion as to a plan of management which will best serve the national interests and utilize to the fullest extent the resources and potentialities of both the Department of Defense and the Central Intelligence Agency.

The report raises a great many questions in my mind -- some old ones and some new ones. Because of my pre-occupation for the past several days with other matters of urgent importance, with which you are familiar, it will be impossible for me to be

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responsive to your request by June 1st. As you know, I am leaving tonight on a trip to Honolulu. Accordingly I suggest a later date, perhaps June 15th, as a more appropriate date for me to reply to the report of the President's Board.

I know that the June 1 date was set so that my views and those of the Secretary of Defense could be considered by the Board at its meeting on June 4th. Perhaps their needs could be fulfilled by an oral discussion of some of the points raised in the report. If they so desire, I will be glad to meet with them for this purpose.

In the meantime, in the interest of being absolutely sure that the NRO program is not impaired because of lack of action on this report, I have scheduled a meeting this afternoon with Dr. McMillan to discuss any management problems which he might have on his mind and also to review with him the reasons for the recent failures of satellite reconnaissance which occurred in March and April, as well as the delay which foreclosed CORONA launchings during the month of May. This unfortunately is depriving us of needed inputs to our intelligence inventory, essential to update the several estimates on Soviet military posture which are usually produced in the late summer so they will be available for the NATO meetings in the fall.

Yours very truly,

(Signed) JOHN A. McCONE

John A. McCone  
Director

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