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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IRRG
DECLASSIFIED ON: 14 JUNE 2013

OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

MAY 19 1965

Hon. Robert S. McNamara
Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Bob:

I do not want to delay further in acknowledging your letter of May 6, 1965, but before taking final action on the matters raised therein I have felt the need for certain coordinating actions on the part of the very limited number of people here in NASA who are cleared in this sensitive area.

Your concern for insuring proper security over all of the activities of the NRO is fully understood, and your desire to assist NASA, within the limitations of that security, by making available military technology needed to fulfill our mission is much appreciated. I agree entirely that NASA requirements should not be permitted to interfere with important military programs, and that NASA should deal solely through the NRO for the development and procurement of sensing hardware approaching the quality of military reconnaissance equipment.

However, while first assuring you that no actions will be taken in the interim which would be incompatible with the intent of your letter, I should like to take a little more time to consider the mechanics through which our common purpose can best be accomplished. Specifically, I should like to have an opportunity to review the closely related activities to date under the McMillan-Seamans agreement of April 20, 1964, covering lunar mapping, and to correlate our response to your letter with certain negotiations now underway with the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior involving NASA assistance in terrestrial surveys from space.

I hope to be able to reply further to your letter within two weeks.

Sincerely,

Sec Def has seen

24 MAY 1965

James E. Webb
Administrator

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