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MEMORANDUM

USAF REVIEWED 03-Jun-2009: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

October 2, 1984

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INFORMATION

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

NOTED

FROM: JOHN W. DOUGLASS ^{JWD}

SUBJECT: ASAT Test Next Week

On October 10 the Air Force plans to conduct its next test of the Miniature Homing Vehicle ASAT system. The test will demonstrate the system's ability to acquire and track an infra-red target in Space. In this case the target will be a prominent star and there will be no intercept. The test would not qualify as one of the two intercepts authorized by the defense authorization bill.

The first actual intercept in Space is planned for February 1985. An instrumented target will be launched in early January 1985 and the test intercept is planned to occur approximately 30 days later.

^{Rm} Ron Lehman and Bob Linhard concur.

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION

November 14, 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: JOHN W. DOUGLASS ^{JWD}

SUBJECT: Yesterday's ASAT Launch

Mary Clark

Yesterday afternoon the Air Force conducted an ASAT test designed to test the miniature homing vehicle's ability to acquire and track against a light source in Space, in this case a bright star. The launch sequence was satisfactory as were the lower stage and upper stage rocket motor burn sequences. A problem occurred, however, in the separation of the miniature homing vehicle from the upper stage. The miniature homing vehicle attempted to spin stabilize itself, but was apparently prevented from doing so by some malfunction in the stabilizing process. As a result of this, the miniature homing vehicle did not separate from the upper stage and no acquisition of target (star) was accomplished. The Air Force is evaluating the telemetry to determine whether or not the test should be repeated.

^{RL} Ron Lehman and ^{Bob} Bob Linkard concur.

DOS REVIEWED 15-Jul-2009: NO OBJECTION TO DECLASSIFICATION

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MEMORANDUM

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL

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INFORMATION

February 1, 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR ROBERT C. McFARLANE

FROM: JOHN W. DOUGLASS

SUBJECT: ASAT Testing

Last week I sent you a memo explaining that the ASAT launch previously scheduled for March had been postponed.

The Air Force has now made a formal recommendation to SECDEF that the next launch take place in the April-May time period against a target satellite, followed by a second launch against a target satellite in the June-July timeframe. The OSD staff (USDR&E) has endorsed the Air Force recommendation.

In arriving at this recommendation, the Air Force has conducted an analysis of its technical objectives and concluded that we would gain more from an early (April-May) high risk test against a target than we would from a lower risk repeat of a test against a starlight source.

Secretary Weinberger has not yet approved the tests and should address the issue in the next few days. Gil Rye and I support the Air Force and OSD staff recommendation. In the meantime, the Air Force is proceeding as though the recommendation will be approved.

Ron Lehman, Chris Lehman and Gil Rye concur.

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