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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

26 JUN 1978

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

SUBJECT: Department of Defense Space Shuttle Transition Plan

During the spring budget review you expressed concern that we are not transitioning fast enough to the Space Shuttle, and thus may be incurring duplicate costs. Our current plan to use the Shuttle and phase out current expendable launch vehicles is described below.

Initial launches on the Shuttle as shown on the attached chart occur in FY 1981 from Kennedy Space Center and FY 1983 from Vandenberg Air Force Base. By FY 1984 we will be using the Shuttle to launch all classes of military as well as intelligence payloads. Currently operational spacecraft must retain a capability for launch on expendable vehicles during transition so that we can replenish our space systems on orbit even if the Shuttle encounters difficulties. Thus a minimum inventory of current vehicles will be retained as a backup. Assuming Shuttle success, Titan III production will end in April 1982 and our backup launch capability will be terminated in FY 1985.

Beginning in late 1983 or FY 1984, new Department of Defense systems will appear which will require the additional capability of the Shuttle and will not be compatible with current boosters. At least one of our intelligence spacecraft and most likely two will be recoverable from orbit. We are also exploring how the presence of men in space will contribute to our future systems, especially with respect to the erection of large structures on orbit.

While the Department of Defense is aggressively supporting the Shuttle program, our transition plan may be conservative. It must be so for critical missions. However, I intend to reexamine this plan with Admiral Turner to insure a cost effective transition. We will examine possible schedule changes, benefits, costs, and risks to improve Shuttle utilization and the redirection of Expendable Launch Vehicle procurements. I will report back to you when I have completed this assessment.

*Harold Brown*

Attachment

Classified by \_\_\_\_\_ Sec Def

EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION

EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652, EXCEPTION CASES

DECLASSIFY ON: 31Dec1993

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DECLASSIFIED NOV 19 2007  
Authority: EO 12958 as amended  
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS

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# DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE SPACE SHUTTLE TRANSITION PLAN

FY	1980	1981	1982	1983	1984	1985	TOTAL SHUTTLE FLIGHTS THROUGH 1991
SHUTTLE LAUNCHES • KENNEDY SPACE CENTER INITIAL TRANSITION BY CLASS OF PAYLOAD	12	11	2	3	8	8	N/A 12 17 7 13 <u>25</u>
							74
SHUTTLE FLIGHTS • VANDENBERG AFB INITIAL TRANSITION BY CLASS OF PAYLOAD							6 N/A 7 26 <u>6</u>
							45
EXPENDABLE VEHICLE LAUNCHES, PRIMARY							

SHUTTLE LAUNCHES  
 • KENNEDY SPACE CENTER  
 INITIAL TRANSITION  
 BY CLASS OF PAYLOAD  
 SHUTTLE FLIGHTS  
 • VANDENBERG AFB  
 INITIAL TRANSITION  
 BY CLASS OF PAYLOAD  
 SHUTTLE FLIGHTS  
 EXPENDABLE VEHICLE  
 LAUNCHES, PRIMARY

END NEW ELV  
 PRODUCTION - APR 1982  
 END ELV  
 PRIMARY  
 LAUNCHES  
 END BACKUP  
 LAUNCH  
 CAPABILITY

DECLASSIFIED NOV 15 2007  
 Authority: EO 12958 as amended  
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