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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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3 DEC 1985

Mr. James M. Beggs
Administrator
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Washington, D.C. 20546

Office of the Secretary of Defense
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS
Date: 02 APRIL 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
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Reason: _____
MDR: 13 -M- 4765

Dear Jim:

(U) I appreciate your September 27 letter concerning DoD's current deliberations on the affordability of the Air Force Shuttle Operations and Planning Complex (SOPC). The Department recognizes NASA's need to ensure that STS operations are adequately supported despite external decisions that impact on future plans and funding.

~~(C)~~ As you are aware, we have been reviewing the SOPC cancellation decision. The NASA impact assessment that you provided in your letter was considered together with the Air Force and SDI impact assessments. Based on these assessments I have directed that the SOPC program be restored in the FY 1987 President's Budget. While the specifics of the program are still not final, I am confident that the DoD SOPC program will provide for much of the relief that you sought in your letter.

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(U) I appreciate your continued support of DoD initiatives such as this.

Sincerely,

William H. Taft, IV
Deputy Secretary of Defense

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