

28 MAY 1976

MEMORANDUM FOR: Secretary of Defense
Administrator, National Aeronautics
and Space Administration

SUBJECT: Space Shuttle Orbiter Procurement Funding

The major issue of funding for procurement of Space Shuttle orbiters beyond the three now budgeted for by NASA must be resolved as expeditiously as possible in order to maintain the viability of the National Space Transportation System.

We recommend that you agree on the position that five orbiters is the minimum fleet size needed to support the National Space Transportation System requirements and that the two additional orbiters should be procured by NASA with funds provided over the currently projected NASA budget. A proposed joint NASA/DOD memorandum is enclosed, along with a Space Shuttle issue paper which discusses the background and rationale supporting this joint recommendation. (This memorandum could be addressed directly to the President, or to the Director of OMB).

We recommend that we meet with you at an early date to discuss the next steps to be taken in this matter.

George M. Low

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Malcolm R. Currie

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Enclosure

