

NATIONAL SPACE COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
WASHINGTON, D C 20500

July 20, 1989

MEMORANDUM FOR MS. EMILY L. WALKER
Executive Secretary
Department of Treasury

MR. FRANK HODSOLL
Associate Director
Office of Management
and Budget

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Executive Secretary
Department of State

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Office of Science and
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Director, Executive
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Department of
Transportation

MR HENRY E. CLEMENTS
Executive Officer
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

CAPT ANTHONY MANESS
Executive Assistant to the
Chairman
Joint Chiefs of Staff

FROM: MARK J. MBECHY *Mark J. Mbechy*

SUBJECT: Presidential Decision on the National Aero-Space
Plane

The President has approved the following policy with regard to the National Aero-Space Plane (NASP) program.

"The United States will continue the NASP program as a high priority national effort to develop and demonstrate hypersonic technologies with the ultimate goal of single-stage-to-orbit. The government will complete the Phase II technology development program and plan to develop an experimental flight vehicle after completion of Phase II, if technically feasible. Performance of the experimental flight vehicle will be constrained to the minimum necessary to meet the highest priority research, as opposed to operational, objectives. Unmanned as well as manned designs will be considered and the program will

be conducted in such a way as to minimize technical and cost uncertainty associated with the experimental vehicle."

The President also approved the following actions to implement the policy decision.

- o Retain an appropriate joint DOD/NASA management structure.
- o Restructure the NASP technology program to focus only on research and technology objectives.
- o Extend the technology development phase of the program approximately 2 1/2 years and plan to begin experimental flight vehicle development in early 1993. The Space Council will review the program prior to initiation of vehicle development.
- o Within currently approved DOD budget levels, increase NASP funding by \$27 million in FY 1990, \$158 million in FY 1991, \$233 in FY 1992 and by appropriate amounts in FY 1993 and FY 1994.