

FAA

September 22, 1970

Dear Mr. Low:

We have followed with interest the development of NASA/FAA requirements for air traffic control utilizing satellite communication links. The Office of Telecommunications Policy shares your opinion that there is a great and largely undeveloped potential for satellite services for a broad class of users which, of course, includes civil and military aviation. In order to assure timely and useful development of satellite systems for these purposes, and to assure consistency with U.S. international policies and national security objectives, it is important to establish a definite statement of the Administration's policy in this area.

Since this is a responsibility of the new Office of Telecommunications Policy, we plan to begin immediately an Executive Office effort to formulate an Administration position concerning technical and institutional arrangements related to deployment of satellite communication and navigation systems. Although it is inappropriate for OTP to be part of the recently formed FAA/NASA group chaired by Mr. Bakke, we expect that group's conclusions will be an essential part of the broader effort by providing a definitive statement of FAA requirements and the rationale for proposed DOT and NASA programs.

I recognize the urgency of the ATC problem and its relation to fiscal planning and wish to assure you that our schedule will be compatible with OMB FY 72 budget reviews. Representatives of OST, DOS, NASC staff, and NSC will be involved in the Administration's policy review. George F. Mansur, who has been nominated to be Deputy Director of OTP, will be directing this activity. I would appreciate it if you could designate a NASA representative with whom Dr. Mansur can discuss NASA views.

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We look forward to working with NASA in this activity and hope that our joint efforts will result in early deployment of a system(s) compatible with the needs of industry, FAA, and other Federal agencies.

Sincerely,

SIGNED

Clay T. Whitehead
Director

Honorable George M. Low
Acting Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space
Administration
Washington, D. C. 20546

cc: Clay T. Whitehead
Central Files
Col Olsson

GFMansur/tw