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2 November 1970

Dear [redacted]

Attached is a follow-on proposal from [redacted] concerning the use of pyrotechnic material to bring about visual incapacitation. Under a prior effort [redacted] developed two pyrotechnic packages designed to produce flash blindness with low risk of permanent retinal damage. A copy of this final report is attached. They had intended to establish a safety criterion and utilize in-house personnel for test and evaluation of the flash cartridges. Their management decided (justifiably so) that the risk was too great for human experimentation. As a consequence, the present proposal is intended to provide simulation methods by which one could predict the degree of incapacitation which would be produced by the pyrotechnic cartridges developed.

I would appreciate your evaluation of this proposal. I don't wish to prejudice your opinion, but I'm not sure that one could extrapolate from the simulation data to predict incapacitation resulting from higher light levels. Although I would like to consider your response as evidence of effort under the new contract, please do not feel obligated to undertake, at this time, a complete evaluation of the retinal damage problem on the basis of this proposal.

Furthermore, there is an obligation to respond to this proposal in the immediate future. Your personal opinion or the consensus of your colleagues will be sufficient at this time. Any alternative suggestions will be appreciated. Also included in this package are some DOD reports relevant to the problem. I would appreciate return of the material when it has served its purpose.

Sincerely,

Enclosures

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