MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF

SUBJECT: LORAN PLAN 1963

Reference is made to the subject plan forwarded by JCSM-856-63 memorandum, dated November 5, 1963, with a recommendation for approval.

The national policy of the United States with respect to long distance aids to navigation is, "among other things, to promote national and international standardization of single type, ground-based, long distance radio aid to navigation, suited to the needs of all users (air, surface, and subsurface); in the meantime, to standardize on the minimum number of types of aids necessary to meet the requirements of all users" (Air Coordinating Committee 50, 12.1E approved December 30, 1958).

The initial approval of the LORAN C program in 1961 was based on the proposition that this system was a likely candidate for national and international standardization, and would probably replace the existing LORAN A system. In May 1963, in a letter to the Director, Office of Emergency Planning (Office of Telecommunications Management) it was proposed that LORAN C be considered as a national standard, long distance, radio navigation aid for the frequency band 90 to 110 kilocycles as a possible method of sounding out the probable adoption of LORAN C as the international standard. As the result of this proposal a meeting of representatives of the Federal Communications Commission, Federal Aviation Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, Office of Emergency Planning, and Department of Defense was convened. During this meeting, it was found that there was a continuing requirement for LORAN A now and for the foreseeable future by all civil and Government users, other than the military. There was every indication that adoption of LORAN C as the national standard system would not be supported, although support for a proposal to change the International Telecommunications Union Organization Radio Regulations (Geneva 1959) to provide for the exclusive use of the band 90 to 110 kilocycles for LORAN C could be counted upon. At present, LORAN C only enjoys what amounts to this protection in Region Two (North and South American areas).

The Department of the Navy has developed, and proposed for worldwide operational coverage, a new long range radio navigation system, OMEGA, that operates in the very low frequency (VLF) portion of the radio spectrum. Worldwide coverage at a considerable reduction in the number of stations and annual operating costs over the existing systems are forecast by the Navy. The cost and complexity of the OMEGA receiving equipment is said to be considerably reduced.

SECRET