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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HEADQUARTERS AEROSPACE DEFENSE COMMAND
PETERSON AIR FORCE BASE, COLORADO 80914

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14 MAR 1980

General Lew Allen, Jr.
Chief of Staff
United States Air Force
Washington, DC 20330

Dear Chief

NORAD/ADCOM has completed its investigation on the false indications generated in the NORAD Command Post on 9 November 1979. The attached report describes the total testing, analysis, and investigative work of the past four months to determine the cause of this incident.

This work was carried out by an Operations Review Board (ORB), established IAW NORAD/ADCOM Regulation 55-97 to "review events which result in substandard performance by the ADC-spacetrack and missile warning systems." This group is similar in function to an aircraft accident investigation board.

The report consists of an Executive Summary followed by four major supporting sections, and appropriate attachments. The report parallels and supports the briefings that my staff presented to you and other officials in the DOD during January 1980. Publication was delayed until a final test could be completed on 14 February 1980. The results of this final test and previous testing demonstrated that the precise mode of failure of the Message Generator/Recorder on 9 November could not be replicated. Whether the cause was human error, computer error, or a combination of both, stringent safeguards have been established to preclude a repetition. Further, priority efforts are continuing to satisfy the recommendations made in the report, plus those made by the USAF/IG and the action items developed for the Chairman by Lt General Dickinson's staff. Some major actions remain, such as the establishment of an off-line test facility separate from Cheyenne Mountain to enable us to achieve 427M IOC without impacting the operational system. Thanks for the excellent support from you and your staff in making this happen quickly.

Sincerely

Jim
JAMES V. HARTINGER
Lieutenant General, USAF
Commander in Chief

1 Atch
ORB Report, Feb 80

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