

17780



COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20548

B-202664

April 15, 1981

Dr. Alan M. Lovelace
Acting Administrator,
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Do not make available to public reading

Dear Dr. Lovelace:

Pursuant to section 313(b) of The Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, as amended by The General Accounting Office Act of 1980, 31 U.S.C. §54(b), I request access to the following recorded information concerning ~~The~~ Space Transportation System (STS):

Request For

- The Office of Space Transportation Operations Fiscal Year 1982 budget submission to the NASA Comptroller (80-2 Program Operating Plan).
- The NASA Comptroller's final budget mark on STS operations sent to OMB (80-2 Program Operating Plan).
- Estimates* of cost per flight based on the revised Fiscal Year 1982 budget and any later cost data (81-1 Program Operating Plan).
- The current draft revision of the NASA-DOD Memorandum of Understanding on Management and Operations of the Space Transportation System.
- Supporting data for the Space Transportation System Crossover and Breakeven Analysis. (That is, all information considered by NASA in connection with such analysis including, but not limited to workpapers, supporting schedules, assumptions used, and computations.)
- The current NASA Shuttle operations cost data base used by the User Charge Working Group.

*/ The term "estimates" as used in this letter means any documents prepared by, or in the possession of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, constituting estimates, projections or analyses, whether specific or general, numerical or descriptive, and any documents accompanying, attached to, or prepared in conjunction with such estimates, projections or analyses.

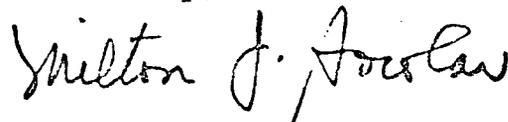
376556/088365

- The 81-1 Program Operating Plans for STS operations prepared by Johnson Space Center and Kennedy Space Center, and any explanations or analyses of increases or decreases in cost estimates from the 80-2 Program Operating Plans for these centers.

- Current estimates of:
 - (a) the number of Shuttle main engine restarts possible before replacement and/or refurbishment;
 - (b) the number of solid rocket booster reuses before replacement; and
 - (c) the percentage of Thermal Protection System tile replacements between Shuttle flights.

GAO requires access to the above-described recorded information in connection with our ongoing review of the Space Transportation System's operations costs and user prices. The review is being conducted pursuant to the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, the Budget and Accounting Procedures Act of 1950, and the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970, as amended. We have a right of access to the information requested under section 313(a) of the Budget and Accounting Act, 1921, as amended, 31 U.S.C. §54(a). Since this request is being made pursuant to section 313(b) of the Budget and Accounting Act, as amended, a response is due within 20 days. If full access to the requested documents is not granted, you are required to furnish a description of any information withheld, and the reasons therefor.

Sincerely,



Acting Comptroller General
of the United States