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LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

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Office of Scientific Research and Development  
1530 P Street, NW.  
Washington 25. D.C.

FILE

July 5, 1947

Dear Mr. President:

In a April 1944 letter, President Roosevelt requested my recommendations on the following points:

- (1) What can be done, consistent with military security, and with the prior approval of the military authorities, to make known to the P-3 program, as soon as possible the contributions which have been made during our war effort to scientific knowledge?
- (2) With particular reference to the war of science against foreign technology, what can be done now to organize a program for continuing in the future the work which has been done?
- (3) What can the Government do now and in the future to aid research activities by private organizations?
- (4) Can an effective program be proposed for discovering and developing scientific talent in America so that the continuing future of scientific research in this country may be assured on a level comparable to what has been done during the war?

It is clear from President Roosevelt's letter that in speaking of science he had in mind the non-terrestrial sciences, including biology and physics, and I have so interpreted his questions. Progress in other fields, such as material fabrication, is likewise important; but the program for non-terrestrial science in my report warrants immediate attention.

In seeking answers to President Roosevelt's questions I have had the assistance of distinguished committees specially qualified to advise in respect to these subjects. The committees have given these matters the serious attention in light of recent developments; indeed, they

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have regarded this as an opportunity to participate in shaping the policy with reference to scientific research. They have had many meetings since the events of this summer began to present more challenges and have submitted formal reports. I have been in close touch with the work of the committees and with their members throughout. I have examined all the data they assembled and the suggestions they submitted on the points in President Roosevelt's letter.

Although the report which I submit herewith is my own, the facts, conclusions, and recommendations are based on the findings of the committees which have studied these questions. Since my report is necessarily brief, I am including as appendices the full reports of the committees.

A single mechanism for implementing the recommendations of the several committees is essential. In proposing such a mechanism I have departed somewhat from the specific recommendations of the committees, but I have since been assured that the plan I am proposing is fully acceptable to committee members.

The rewards of such explication for the Nation and the individual are great. Scientific progress is one essential key to our security as a nation, to our better health, to more jobs, to a higher standard of living, and to our cultural progress.

Respectfully yours,

*Vannevar Bush*  
Vannevar Bush, Director

The President of the United States  
The White House  
Washington, D.C.

Very sincerely yours,

*CK: [Signature]*

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