NASA-Lewis Research Center
Cleveland, Ohio

January 5, 1973

MEMORANDUM

TO: Lewis Employees

FROM: Director

SUBJECT: Termination of NASA Nuclear Programs and Plans for the Plum Brook Station

NASA is starting today to make a number of program reductions to adjust its activities in space and aeronautics to a lower spending level. These reductions are necessary as part of all the actions required to reduce total Government spending to the $250 billion target set by the President for fiscal year 1973. In general, NASA has found it necessary to reduce or terminate long-range research and technology efforts that are not expected to be needed for some time in the future in order to give priority to more urgently needed near-term work.

More specifically for us here at Lewis, essentially all of our current nuclear propulsion and nuclear power programs will be terminated as soon as possible in an orderly fashion. Further, some of our major facilities that will not be utilized in NASA's restructured program will be placed in a standby condition. As regards the Plum Brook Station, this means that the Reactor Facility will be placed in a standby condition by the end of this fiscal year and the remainder of the station, which is principally devoted to the development of the Titan-Centaur shroud, will be placed in standby by the end of fiscal year 1974.

It will, of course, also be necessary to separate many Lewis employees associated with these programs, both during the rest of this fiscal year and at the end of fiscal year 1974. Plans to develop the exact number to be separated, the professional and support groups involved and the specific phasing of these reductions are now being prepared. Further information on these matters will be passed on to you as soon as it is available to me.

Speaking for both NASA senior management and the management of this Center, I can assure you that these very significant reductions in our program and staff is in no way a reflection on the high level of competence and dedication with which we have pursued these programs. It is, instead, simply a matter of relating current fiscal constraints to our Nation's anticipated needs in space for the rest of this decade or longer.

I can also assure you that we are planning a particularly intensive and widespread outplacement program to do everything we possibly can to assist employees in securing other employment. I am confident that the special skills and experience you possess will be of large benefit to the Nation in other areas of technical interest.

Bruce T. Lundin

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