

12. The Department of Defense, the Atomic Energy Commission, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Commerce, and other government departments and agencies should periodically review the missions and programs of the mission-oriented research laboratories they finance in full, both those they operate directly and those operated under contract, in order to make sure (a) that their resources continue to serve high-priority national needs and objectives, (b) that the arrangements for their management and location provide them maximum opportunity to be strong and creative, and (c) that their programs and administrative arrangements are compatible with the objectives of the institutions with which they may be linked. The Committee suggests that the resources of the President's Science Advisory Committee could be called upon in conducting these reviews and in arriving at decisions.

The great national research centers financed by the government utilize large numbers of scientists and engineers. The missions of some of them, especially of those related to defense, have changed since their establishment. It is important that their present and future missions be clear-cut and of high priority, and that their use of scientists and engineers be unmistakably in the national interest. In maintaining these major concentrations of manpower, the government has a special responsibility to appraise them in terms of both their contributions to urgent government needs and their impact on the over-all utilization of scientists and engineers, taking into consideration the needs of the private sector of the economy.

New ways to manage and house the large research laboratories of the federal government are needed. Some laboratories can be handled directly by the government, others by industry, by universities, and by non-profit corporations. It may be necessary to handle some of them in new ways. In the long future, it will probably be wise not to expect universities to manage such establishments unless there is no alternative for the government.