The Honorable William P. Clements, Jr.
Governor of the State of Texas
Austin, Texas 78711

Dear Governor Clements:

This is in reply to your letter of April 28, 1989, to President George Bush regarding the preservation of Apollo Mission Control, a National Historic Landmark, in Houston, Texas.

As you know, on September 8, 1980, the Congress passed Public Law 96-344, requiring the Secretary of the Interior to prepare a study of the sites, locations and events associated with the historical theme of Man in Space. Public Law 96-344 also asked the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and other responsible government agencies controlling such sites to preserve them from destruction or change during the study and congressional review period insofar as is possible.

The Man in Space Alternatives Study, required by P. L. 96-344, still has not been officially released to the Congress. Since it is a planning document we need to obtain the approval of the Office of Management and Budget before it can be transmitted. The study has been under review by OMB since October 1987.

The 25 National Historic Landmarks identified by the Man in Space study represent only a fraction of the technological resources that supported the early American Space Program. They are the best remaining examples of the large technological base that enabled Americans to go to the moon and explore deep space. The physical and documentary record of this technological base needs to be preserved. These resources relate to and illustrate the entire history of the American Space Program.

In the interim, we believe the preservation of Apollo Mission Control and the other National Historic Landmarks identified by the National Park Service as a result of the Man in Space study are critical to the successful completion of the study effort required by the Congress in P.L. 96-344.

It is my hope that the Man in Space study effort will eventually lead to the preservation of the Man in Space sites and their interpretation to the public so that this important part of our history will not be lost to future generations of humankind. The National Park Service stands ready to work with the State of Texas and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in the successful completion of the requirements of P. L. 96-344.

Sincerely,

[Signature]
Director