

[REDACTED]

THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Cyrus R. Vance  
Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : CIA Program B Participation in CORONA

1. At the NRO Ex Com meeting of 1 September 1964 it was agreed that CIA would continue its present responsibility in contracting for all elements of the CORONA payload. This requires that adequate funds be included in the CIA/Program B Budget for FY-65 to support these contracts for the balance of the fiscal year. Since these funds are now carried in the proposed NRO budget under AF/Program A, the DNRO should be directed to modify that budget and effect the funds transfer promptly to cover the payload commitments which have been directed by NRO and made to the contractors by CIA in the interest of keeping the CORONA program on schedule.

2. A parallel decision was reached to delegate the CORONA contractor's responsibility to a CIA contracts officer on the West Coast. CIA is also to add whatever people are necessary to our West Coast assets to ensure our provision of adequate technical competence as advisors to [REDACTED] and as technical overseers of our contracts. I have studied the ways in which this second decision can best be implemented. I believe that it is important to establish specific terms of reference for the CIA team which is to carry the CORONA payload on the West Coast and these are set forth below.

3. The manner in which we propose to proceed builds around a senior CIA man who would be posted to Los Angeles and physically located with [REDACTED]. He would provide [REDACTED] with a single point-of-contact, close at hand, for all aspects of the program assigned to CIA, and would be specifically responsible for the following:

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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- a. The payload contracts (Lockheed, ITEK, and GE) via the CIA contracting officer who would be located with him in [REDACTED] area.
- b. The security of the payload through a CIA security man located in Los Angeles.
- c. Two CIA technical people, who would be assigned to him to work in CORONA.
- d. The assembly, integration and checkout process and facility at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested.

This senior man and his team would be responsible to [REDACTED]. They would retain appropriate lines for funding, communications and technical assistance back to CIA/Program B in Washington. The senior man and a contract/security man could appear at Los Angeles immediately and his complete team could be assembled within two months.

4. We propose to support the CIA West Coast CORONA team with the considerable technical in-house assets of CIA/DDS&T as required. In addition, we have a depth of covert support available in Headquarters to backstop the team in Los Angeles to whom the CORONA responsibilities would be delegated.

5. In order to make this arrangement a working one, I believe that the CIA team must be a participating part of the program in every sense of the word. Such participation should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Participation in all contractor/supplier meetings, across the system interfaces, such that the team responsible for payload development remain fully cognizant of total system status.
- b. Recognition by the [REDACTED] of the CIA's role in the payload area.
- c. Participation in the Configuration Control Board, or whatever coordinating mechanism is established to coordinate the system.

6. It is my considered judgment that implementation of the agreement to furnish CIA support in California, which takes proper account of the responsibilities and terms of reference outlined here, would have significant benefit to the program. You can be assured of our enthusiastic support of such an arrangement.

John A. McCone  
Director

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