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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

7 October 1964

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: NRO ExCom Meeting, Tuesday, 6 October, 4 p. m.,
in Secretary Vance's Office

1. Present were Mr. McCone, Secretary Vance, General Carter, Dr. Fubini, and Dr. McMillan.

2. Mr. Vance opened the meeting by reporting that as a result of General Carter's telephone call to him in regard to CORONA systems integration contracting on the West Coast, he had researched his records and could see where there had been a misunderstanding. He said that his previous discussions and agreements had been concerned with the payload contracting with Itek, Fairchild, General Electric, and Lockheed and that these should remain under the CIA. He stated that he had not made any agreements as to systems engineering or systems integration contracts with Lockheed and it was his position that these should be transferred to the Air Force.

3. Mr. McCone stated that in connection with prior agreements on the CIA CORONA organization on the West Coast, he had prepared a paper indicating his concept of the organization. (Copies of the paper were given to Mr. Vance, Dr. Fubini, and Dr. McMillan.) Mr. McCone then read the paper in its entirety.

4. Dr. McMillan pointed out that since the [redacted] contract for overall systems management had now been signed, it was essential that the systems integration contract with Lockheed be transferred to the Air Force so that [redacted] would have total responsibility for technical direction of the program. Mr. McCone, in response to a question by Mr. Vance, stated that responsibility for the CORONA program rested with [redacted]. Also, that [redacted] and the CIA unit on the West Coast would

be responsible to, as well as responsive to, [redacted] and would work under his guidance. Mr. McCone stated that there was no doubt as to who was in charge of the overall program and this was [redacted] and this included command as well as technical direction of the total program. Mr. McCone stated that his concept was as contained in the paper; i. e., Mr. [redacted] and his people would continue all of the contracts which they previously and currently had in accordance with the chart attached to his letter. This would include the systems integration contract presently under discussion. These contracts would all be administered and technically supervised by [redacted] and his people would have direct access to [redacted] and the recommendations and findings of [redacted] unit, as well as [redacted] would all be discussed, adjudicated, and coordinated in the CORONA Coordinating Committee or Configuration Control Board or whatever [redacted] chose to call his advisory group. There would be a cross flow of information, discussion, and action and reaction between all of the CIA activities and the Air Force activities but that the command decisions would be made by [redacted] who would look to the Configuration Control Board for advice. Dr. McMillan pointed out that, to the best of his knowledge, the sole point of contact designated to all contractors in the CORONA program was the program's manager [redacted] who was [redacted] General Carter stated that this had previously been [redacted] under Colonel Battle who was an Air Force officer seconded to the CIA and who had been the technical director for the CIA. General Carter stated that this had been transferred by [redacted] to the Air Force through reorganization procedures on the West Coast.

5. Dr. Fubini pointed out that even though [redacted] had no satellite or rocket experience, he was known as a thoroughly capable man, a good administrator, and had a fine reputation and Dr. Fubini supported his appointment. There was no further discussion of his capabilities and copies of his biographical sketch were given to Fubini, McMillan, and Vance.

Mr. McCone pointed out that once this matter had been agreed, Dr. McMillan, General Carter, and [REDACTED] should go out to the West Coast, sit down with [REDACTED] and make it abundantly clear to all concerned exactly how the program was to be administered. Mr. McCone stated that he was prepared to send [REDACTED] at once and to augment his staff as indicated in his letter but he was not going to waste this sort of talent on the West Coast unless it was clearly understood just what the organizational procedures would be. [REDACTED] would have charge of all CIA activities in the CORONA program and would retain the Lockheed systems integration contract. He would report to and be directly responsible to [REDACTED]. All of the integrating activities between the payload and launch and recovery procedures would be coordinated across the boards as necessary and would be considered by the Configuration Control Board as necessary. This Board would act in an advisory capacity to [REDACTED] who in turn had the final authority for decisions. Dr. McMillan reiterated that this made [REDACTED] the technical director of the entire CORONA program and Mr. McCone and General Carter agreed. (N. B. This point is made a matter of specific record because it bears directly on the responsibility for technical direction of [REDACTED] -- the CIA position being that technical direction must remain in the Government -- McCone, Vance, and Fubini all agreed that [REDACTED] had technical direction of CORONA since he had full responsibility and was in command of the project.)

6. It was not formally agreed that Mr. McCone's letter to Mr. Vance was approved, but the indications were clear that it was acceptable to DOD and we should press for a rapid response.

7. [REDACTED]

***** NOTICE OF REMOVED PAGES *****

Pages 4 through 6 of CORONA, ARGON, LANYARD programmatic information are not provided because their full text remains classified.