

Copy [redacted]

4 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Acting Chief, Development Projects Division [redacted]

THROUGH : Chief, Administrative Branch, DPD [redacted]  
 Chief, Research and Development Branch, DPD [redacted]

SUBJECT : Project CORONA/VEDAS Relationship

REFERENCE : [redacted] dated 20 April 1959

1. The referenced document briefly outlines the evolution of the SALAAM/APOLLO/VEDAS Program and records Agency concern as to a possible conflict between the VEDAS effort and CORONA. This is forwarded to record the undersigned's view that if VEDAS is approved, it should be implemented within the CORONA structure.

2. As you are aware the VEDAS proposal has experienced several reviews by Army and ARPA and is now being examined by the Office of the Director of Research and Development, DOD. [redacted] are cochairman of the AD HOC Committee making the review. The Committee is to make a recommendation to Dr. Herbert York, Director, R&D/DOD, regarding the necessity of VEDAS and whether the need could be met through existing efforts such as CORONA. I understand if VEDAS goes forward, it is not to divert CORONA hardware. However, any program approval would be greatly influenced by its security hazard to CORONA.

3. For the purpose of this examination, this Staff has assumed the VEDAS product is urgently required and the Program would be approved in some form. We have thus concerned ourselves with the security implications of VEDAS as presently contemplated by ARPA and Army. Our review has briefly covered management concept, contract administration, funding, security standards, industrial security, clearance actions, and the major difficulty of explaining the Program within the DOD. This whole complex of problems is compounded by the similarity of the VEDAS and CORONA Programs and their concurrent implementation within almost identical organizations. This includes operational overlap in May, June,



August and September 1960. At this time we do not have an in-hand plan as to how VEDAS would be compartmented and controlled. This is not a criticism of the several officers who have worked on the problem, but a DOD organizational difficulty.

4. After reviewing these factors, it is my conclusion the present VEDAS approach is a serious security hazard to CORONA and will tend to undermine our effort to keep CORONA identified as a non-tactical Research effort. It will be exceedingly difficult to control information as to the VEDAS mission within DOD, and it seems this would prove inconsistent with the Presidential indication that the CORONA approach is to be employed through 1960. I would like to suggest this philosophy has been applied to the Air Force, and it seems logically applicable to the Army.

5. Assuming the VEDAS product is found to be an urgent National requirement, it is my strong recommendation that the VEDAS effort be incorporated within the management structure of Project CORONA.



Security Officer  
DPD-DD/P

CONCUR:



6/5/59

Chief, Administrative Branch, DPD

CONCUR:

*George F. Kucera*  
GEORGE F. KUCERA

6/5/59

Chief, Research and Development Branch, DPD

Distribution:

