

SECRET

[REDACTED]

read this

[REDACTED]

Summary

DNRO/CIA Discussions CORONA Program



9/9-10/65

1. Subjects of Discussions were:

9/9/65 Brief Dr. Flax on CORONA program and organizational problems

9/10/65 Discuss in detail the organizational problems with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

2. Highlights

9/9/65 Dr. Flax stated that CORONA Was a national program and personnel assigned to NRO should be so oriented. He took cognizance of the CIA position on organizational problems

9/10/65 These discussions were on problems of release of funds and CIA CORONA responsibilities. Since the first problem could not be resolved until responsibilities were agreed upon, the discussion centered on the latter with results as follows:

I Operation Control

Potential solutions

- A Leave as is
- B. Joint Operations Center headed by CIA representative with AF deputy
- C. JOC headed by AF officer with CIA deputy
- D. CIA and USAF be at same location with coordinated operational control.

CIA recommendation was B with D acceptable. [REDACTED] wants to review but would accept B or C rather than D. Nobody favored A

Declassified and Released by the N R C
In Accordance with E. O. 12958
on NOV 26 1997

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II "Configuration Control Board"

[redacted] suggested the establishment of an instrument like the CCB to function as a system management control board with CIA and USAF [redacted] having co-equal status. This board would answer to NRO and be restrained from taking action concerning overall program funding, major system improvement and master schedules. The board would act in general as interface coordinators, review system improvement, insure schedule are met and hardware is compatible.

CIA agreed that this was desirable.

III Contractual Status

[redacted] suggested the following status:

CIA

[redacted]

Itek
LMSC (P/L integration
& _____)
Fairchild

System Integration

and questioned whether the GE CRV contract should not be handled by USAF [redacted]. CIA stated that this would put another link in the cycle and might unduly restrict the LMSC-GE interchange.

3. Action required

CIA and NRO will document their views on the items discussed and meet on 9/13/65 to coordinate a letter to the DNRO.

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GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

1. This Agreement between Director, NRO, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based on policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA program, the following policy decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is [REDACTED]

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

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NEW PROPOSAL

1. This agreement between the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based upon policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The CORONA program is a joint endeavor of the U. S. Air Force and the CIA within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the Commanding General [REDACTED] reporting directly to the D/NRO.

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GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

b. The program manager exercises overall technical direction of the program and is responsible to the DNRO for its successful prosecution, who is in turn responsible to the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense.

c. All CIA activities in CORONA, including security and contracting, will come to a focus in CIA's [REDACTED] who in turn is responsible to [REDACTED]

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

b. [REDACTED] the CORONA program manager, exercises overall technical and operational direction of the program and is responsible to the DNRO for its successful prosecution. The DNRO is responsible to the Secretary of Defense as the Executive Agent for the NRP and to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence as set forth in the DOD-CIA Agreement dated 13 March 1963.

c. All Director, Program B activities in CORONA, including security and contracting, will be consolidated under [REDACTED] who in turn is responsible to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will be physically stationed with [REDACTED] at El Segundo, California.

NEW PROPOSAL

b. The program manager exercises overall technical direction of the program and is responsible to the D/NRO for its successful prosecution.

c. The program manager will look to a senior CIA CORONA representative to provide technical direction for the payload. By payload, it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system. The responsibility for all CIA technical activities in CORONA will be consolidated under this senior CIA representative who will be located physically in the Offices of the [REDACTED]

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GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

d. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts.

e. A CORONA payload Advisory Committee reporting to [REDACTED] will replace the old Payload Configuration Control Board. The Chairman will be [REDACTED]

f. The AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions remains a CIA activity and reports to [REDACTED] and is responsible to [REDACTED] through him.

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

d. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts amended as provided for in [REDACTED] dated 17 August 1964.

e. A CORONA Advisory Committee reporting to [REDACTED] will be established. [REDACTED] will be a member of this committee with responsibility for providing advice and assistance on the technical aspects of the payload.

f. The LMSC (A/P) facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and its functions, remains a Director, Program B activity and reports to [REDACTED] and is responsible to [REDACTED] through him.

NEW PROPOSAL

3. [REDACTED] will provide the general systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the payload contractors will be accomplished under the guidance and coordination of the senior CIA representative.

e. A CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting to the [REDACTED] is established under the Chairmanship of the senior CIA representative. The CIA representative will also serve as a member of an overall CORONA systems Configuration Control Board reporting to the [REDACTED]

4. The AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions, including system integration, is under the control and direction of the senior CIA representative.

GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

g. The camera programming function performed at the AP facility will continue to be directly responsive to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements, as it always has been.

h. [REDACTED] will provide a single point of contact for the payload contractors, Lockheed, GE and ITEK, on all matters pertaining to their contracts. This includes contracting, security, and technical direction, subject to the final approval of [REDACTED]

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

g. [REDACTED] the CORONA program manager, is responsible for all technical decisions during pre-launch, launch, on-orbit, and recovery phases of mission execution. Operational communications procedures and mission responsibilities as outlined in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] dated 30 November 1964 will be followed. It is reaffirmed that the NRO Satellite Operations Center is responsible for intelligence targeting and mission termination or interruptions only in emergencies in which technical considerations threaten the successful completion of the mission.

h. [REDACTED] will provide a centralized point of contact for the payload contractors, LMSC (A/P), GE (R/V), and ITEK on all matters pertaining to their contracts. This includes contracting, security, and implementation of technical directives as

NEW PROPOSAL

5. The CORONA camera programming function and associated software support will continue at the AP facility and is responsive directly to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations.

d. The senior CIA representative is the single point of contact within Government for the CORONA payload contractors, specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK, for technical direction, contracting and security. He will be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and

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GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

This relationship would govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives.

i. The systems integration contract with Lockheed [REDACTED] will continue to be a CIA contract under [REDACTED] as it is an integral part of the activity at the AP facility.

j. Required funds to support CIA contracts will be included in the CIA portion of the NRO budget.

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

approved by [REDACTED] This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives.

i. The systems integration contract with LMSC (A/P) will continue to be a Director, Program B contract under [REDACTED] as it is an integral part of the CORONA activity at this facility.

j. Required funds to support Director, Program B contracts will continue to be included in the Director, Program A portion of the NRO budget and funding procedures will continue as presently established by the NRO Comptroller.

NEW PROPOSAL

compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on the re-entry vehicle components not peculiar to the payload may well come from [REDACTED] through the CIA [REDACTED] representative.

(Included in d & 4).

No reference to funding.

GENERAL CARTER'S PROPOSAL

k. [REDACTED] will be the project manager for the CORONA Payload reporting directly to [REDACTED] in parallel with [REDACTED] who will be project manager for the remainder of the system (i. e. , THOR, AGENA, LAUNCH, etc.).

DR. McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

Not applicable.

NEW PROPOSAL

(Included in c).

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DRAFT APPROVED BY GENERAL CABLE

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2. The CORONA program is a joint endeavor of the U. S. Air Force and the CIA within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the [REDACTED] reporting directly to the D/NRO.

b. The program manager exercises overall technical direction of the program and is responsible to the D/NRO for its successful prosecution.

NEW PROPOSAL

1. This agreement between the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based upon policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The CORONA Program is a national endeavor involving the United States Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA Program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the Director, [REDACTED] reporting directly to the D/NRO. The program manager is responsible to the D/NRO for the successful prosecution of the CORONA Program, for overall technical direction, and for the direction of the field operations, responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center.

c. The program manager will look to a senior CIA CORONA representative to provide technical direction for the payload. By payload, it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system. The responsibility for all CIA technical activities in CORONA will be consolidated under this senior CIA representative who will be located physically in the Offices of the [REDACTED]

d. The senior CIA representative is the single point of contact within Government for the CORONA payload contractors, specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK, for technical direction, contracting and security. He will be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on the re-entry vehicle components not peculiar to the payload may well come from [REDACTED] through the CIA representative.

b. All CIA technical and contractual activities in the CORONA Program will be consolidated under a senior CIA representative who will report to and be located in the Offices of the Director [REDACTED]. Specifically, the senior CIA representative will be responsible for the following:

(1) Provide technical direction for the CORONA payload. By payload it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system.

(2) Be the single authoritative point of contact within the Government for CIA - let CORONA contracts (specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK) for technical direction, contracting, and security. He will be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for product improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on system elements not peculiar to the payload (for example, certain re-entry vehicle components) may well come from [REDACTED] through the senior CIA representative.

e. A CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting to the Commanding General, [REDACTED] is established under the Chairmanship of the senior CIA representative. The CIA representative will also serve as a member of an overall CORONA systems Configuration Control Board reporting to the [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] will provide the general systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the payload contractors will be accomplished under the guidance and coordination of the senior CIA representative.

4. The AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions, including systems integration, is under the control and direction of the senior CIA representative.

5. The CORONA camera programming function and associated software support will continue at the AP facility and is responsive directly to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations.

(3) Be the Payload Member of a CORONA System Configuration Control Board reporting to the Director, [REDACTED]

(4) Be the Chairman of a CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting directly to the Director, [REDACTED]

(5) Control and direct the personnel and functions of the AP facility at Palo Alto, including the payload systems integration effort.

3. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering services for the CORONA Program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the CIA contractors will be accomplished under the guidance of and/or in coordination with the senior CIA representative, as appropriate.

4. The Palo Alto AP facility will continue to provide software support to the CORONA Program (for example, nominal and actual ephemeris computation, camera programming, etc.) as it has in the past. In this respect, the AP facility will be directly responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations. In addition, the assets available at the AP will continue to be available for support of operations analysis.

SECRET

General
CARTER'S PROPOSAL

1. This Agreement between Director, NRO, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based on policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA program, the following policy decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is [REDACTED]

Dr.
McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

1. This agreement between Director, NRO, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based on policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency and the overall management of the CORONA program, the following policy decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is [REDACTED].

NRO
~~DR~~ PROPOSAL

1. This agreement between the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based upon policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The CORONA program is a joint endeavor of the U.S. Air Force and the CIA within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once; ~~concerning the CIA participation:~~

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the [REDACTED], reporting directly to the D/NRO.

SECRET

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~SECRET~~

CARTER'S PROPOSAL

b. The program manager exercises over-all technical direction of the program and is responsible to the DNRO for its successful prosecution, who is in turn responsible to the Director of Central Intelligence and the Secretary of Defense.

c. All CIA activities in CORONA, including security and contracting, will come to a focus in CIA's [REDACTED] who in turn is responsible to [REDACTED]

d. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts.

McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

b. [REDACTED], the CORONA program manager, exercises overall technical and operational direction of the program and is responsible to the DNRO for its successful prosecution. The DNRO is responsible to the Secretary of Defense as the Executive Agent for the NRP and to the Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence as set forth in the DOD-CIA Agreement dated 13 March 1963.

c. All Director, Program B activities in CORONA, including security and contracting, will be consolidated under [REDACTED] who in turn is responsible to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] will be physically stationed with [REDACTED] at El Segundo, California.

d. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts amended as provided for in [REDACTED] dated 17 August 1964.

OUR PROPOSAL

b. The program manager exercises overall technical direction of the program and is responsible to the D/NRO for its successful prosecution.

c. ^{new} The program manager will look to a senior CIA CORONA representative to provide technical direction for the payload. All CIA technical activities in CORONA will be consolidated under this senior CIA representative.

3. [REDACTED] will provide the general systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the payload contractors will be accomplished under the guidance and coordination of the senior CIA representative. [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE WITH CARE
CONTROL - EYES ONLY

SECRET

CARTER'S PROPOSAL

e. A CORONA payload Advisory Committee reporting to [REDACTED] will replace the old Payload Configuration Control Board. The Chairman will [REDACTED]

f. The AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions remains a CIA activity and reports to [REDACTED], and is responsible to [REDACTED] through him.

g. The camera programming function performed at the AP facility will continue to be directly responsive to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements, as it always has been.

McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

e. A CORONA Advisory Committee reporting to [REDACTED] will be established. [REDACTED] will be a member of this committee with responsibility for providing advice and assistance on the technical aspects of the payload.

f. The LMSC (A/P) facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and its functions, remains a Director, Program B activity and reports to [REDACTED] and is responsible to [REDACTED] through him.

g. [REDACTED] the CORONA program manager, is responsible for all technical decisions during pre-launch, launch, on-orbit, and recovery phases of mission execution. Operational communications procedures and mission responsibilities as outlined in [REDACTED] dated 30 November 1964 will be followed. It is reaffirmed that the NRO Satellite Operations Center is responsible for intelligence targeting and mission termination or interruptions only in emergencies in which technical considerations threaten the successful completion of the mission.

OUR PROPOSAL

new e.
e. A CORONA Payload Advisory Committee, reporting to [REDACTED] is established under the Chairmanship of the senior CIA representative.

4. ~~3~~ The AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions, including system integration, is under the control and direction of the senior CIA representative.

dr 5.
h. The camera programming function for CORONA operations is the responsibility of the CIA and is directly responsive to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements.

SECRET

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~SECRET~~

CARTER'S PROPOSAL

h. [REDACTED] will provide a single point of contact for the payload contractors, Lockheed, GE and ITEK, on all matters pertaining to their contracts. This includes contracting, security, and technical direction, subject to the final approval of [REDACTED]. This relationship would govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives.

i. The systems integration contract with Lockheed [REDACTED] will continue to be a CIA contract under [REDACTED] as it is an integral part of the activity at the AP facility.

j. Required funds to support CIA contracts will be included in the CIA portion of the NRO budget.

McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

h. [REDACTED] will provide a centralized point of contact for the payload contractors, LMSC (A/P), GE (R/V), and Itek on all matters pertaining to their contracts. This includes contracting, security, and implementation of technical directives as approved by [REDACTED]. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives.

i. The systems integration contract with LMSC (A/P) will continue to be a Director, Program B contract under [REDACTED] as it is an integral part of the CORONA activity at this facility.

j. Required funds to support Director, Program B contracts will continue to be included in the Director, Program A portion of the NRO budget and funding procedures will continue as presently established by the NRO Comptroller.

OUR PROPOSAL

new d.
d. The senior CIA representative is the single point of contact within the Government for the payload contractors, specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK, for technical direction, contracting and security. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives.

(Included in d & ⁴)

NO REFERENCE TO FUNDING.
i. The budget for the payload will be prepared by the senior CIA representative and coordinated with the program manager. Funds required to support CIA contracts will be included in the CIA portion of the NRO budget.

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
CONTROL [REDACTED] ONLY

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CARTER'S PROPOSAL

k. [REDACTED] will be the project manager for the CORONA Payload reporting directly to [REDACTED] in parallel with [REDACTED] who will be project manager for the remainder of the system (i.e., THOR, AGENA, LAUNCH, etc.).

McMILLAN'S PROPOSAL

Not Applicable

OUR PROPOSAL

(Included in c)

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
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NOT APPROVED BY GENERAL CARTER

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c. The program manager will look to a senior CIA CORONA representative to provide technical direction for the payload. By payload, it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system. The responsibility for all CIA technical activities in CORONA will be consolidated under this senior CIA representative who will be located physically in the Offices of the [REDACTED]

d. The senior CIA representative is the single point of contact within Government for the CORONA payload contractors, specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK, for technical direction, contracting and security. He will be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on the re-entry vehicle components not peculiar to the payload may well come from [REDACTED] through the CIA representative.

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(1) Provide technical direction for the CORONA payload. By payload it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system.

(2) Be the single authoritative point of contact within the Government for CIA - let CORONA contracts (specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK) for technical direction, contracting, and security. He will be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for product improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on system elements not peculiar to the payload (for example, certain re-entry vehicle components) may well come from [REDACTED] through the senior CIA representative.

SECRET
[REDACTED]

e. A CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting to the [REDACTED] is established under the Chairmanship of the senior CIA representative. The CIA representative will also serve as a member of an overall CORONA systems Configuration Control Board reporting to the [REDACTED]

3. [REDACTED] will provide the general systems engineering for the program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the payload contractors will be accomplished under the guidance and coordination of the senior CIA representative.

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5. The CORONA camera programming function and associated software support will continue at the AP facility and is responsive directly to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations.

(3) Be the Payload Member of a CORONA System Configuration Control Board reporting to the Director, [REDACTED]

(4) Be the Chairman of a CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting directly to the Director, [REDACTED]

(5) Control and direct the personnel and functions of the AP facility at Palo Alto, including the payload systems integration effort.

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4. The Palo Alto AP facility will continue to provide software support to the CORONA Program (for example, nominal and actual ephemeris computation, camera programming, etc.) as it has in the past. In this respect, the AP facility will be directly responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations. In addition, the assets available at the AP will continue to be available for support of operations analysis.

AP
[REDACTED]