

12 October 1968

NOTES FOR [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]:

Four subjects of interest and possible action for you are herein described.

1. We have no authority from the NRO to load [REDACTED] on [REDACTED]. Flax is awaiting an expression of DCI interest. I think it advisable for you to call Flax and indicate our desire to launch on [REDACTED] in December which will permit Flax to ask the DCI if he wishes to fly [REDACTED] at the expense of up to three days intelligence take. The confirmation to that letter by the DCI will put everything in order with respect to our December flight.

2. [REDACTED]

3. Information requested of OSP by the NRO on performance data on [REDACTED], CORONA and Improved CORONA originated by [REDACTED] tasking NRO for such data and NRO [REDACTED] in turn requested it of us. Discussions

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In Accordance with E.O. 12958

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among [redacted] and [redacted] indicate that no real Improved CORONA Program exists and we have been instructed to forget that portion of the data required by NRO [redacted]. However, parallel request came yesterday orally from [redacted] who asked us to cost an Improved CORONA Payload based upon the same ITEK informal submission a year and a half ago on the 32" and 42" systems. He asked us to cost the total payload including camera, reentry vehicles, nu spacecraft ala J-3, and integration of these elements, including the 12" SI camera by Lockheed. Additionally, he requested that we cost three added J-3's to fill the potential CORONA gap if an Improved CORONA development were to be pursued. He requested that we not go to the Contractor for this information. He showed McDonald a TWX he [redacted] had sent to [redacted] asking them for new booster data for the Improved CORONA. He had not sent us a copy nor did he officially by TWX request the doolar information from us. On one hand through the NRO we are being asked to forget there is such a thing as the Improved CORONA in response to the information for the [redacted] report; on the other hand, entirely separate and completely uncoordinated is the request from the Comptroller for the costs on such a non-existent program. In the background is the [redacted] report and [redacted] tasking NRO for information, the CIA information and the DIA [redacted] for collaborative data. This is getting to be a pretty confusing issue. I think Flax should be asked to put it in some sort of logical order so we don't all spin our wheels needlessly. Your nickel?

4. On Monday, there will be a review at the NRO on the last CPX on the [redacted]. [redacted] is very enthusiastic about the results he has reviewed so far and is attempting to convey his enthusiasm for this approach to Flax, but is effectively barred from that audience by [redacted]. When [redacted] had to discuss this matter before [redacted] (as he told the story to [redacted]) [redacted] asked him how that [redacted] klug was getting along. [redacted] responded enthusiastically that it solves the [redacted] problem and [redacted] responded, "My God, don't tell me that." It appears that our request signed by you to brief Flax on the [redacted] is getting less than lip service. Reber told me it was on Flax's desk and he would attempt to get Flax's attention directly toward it. I could hope that you might call [redacted]

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and ask him what his response to your request is, and indicate that he might like at the same time a status report on how well the [REDACTED] is operating. Parenthetically, the next exercise will be for real and in real-time on CR-5 getting ready for the actual operation on CR-6 in December. [REDACTED] is extremely short-handed and needs help from knowledgeable people. I recognize that staffing of the SOC is now in the domain of the DD/S&T, but unless directed otherwise, I would like to detail two of [REDACTED] specialists in this field to assist a sorely-pressed [REDACTED] in getting this show on the road. I would post [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] as soon as possible there for the period through December to assure good results on the first live mission.

[REDACTED]