



Copy _____ of [REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, COMIREX

SUBJECT : CORONA Improvement Program

1. Attached is a Staff Memorandum which has been prepared by the OSP Staff concerning the "CORONA Improvement Program" which is being advocated by the Bureau of the Budget as a replacement for [REDACTED]. You will note from the Staff Memorandum that the CORONA Improvement Program is not a specific proposal but rather a collection of proposals which have been received by the Office of Special Projects over the past few years. The basic issue which must be faced in addressing questions of [REDACTED] and CORONA is the question of the requirement for resolution. The [REDACTED] System has been designed to meet a requirement for a wide swath search and surveillance system with a capability of two to three foot ground resolution. Requirements officers have advised our development staffs over the past several years that small improvements in resolution of the CORONA Program would not meet the objectives and long range requirements of the intelligence community. It was largely on the basis of this advice that the CIA, in its proposal for development of the J-3 system, decided against an increase in focal length to the CORONA camera. Resolution of cameras in the CORONA and [REDACTED] class are dictated largely by focal length and the cost of any system developed to meet [REDACTED] requirements would likely be equivalent. If the intelligence community were to reduce their requirement from three foot to five foot resolution, it is true that shorter focal length, lighter weight cameras could be developed to meet the requirement at considerable cost savings.

2. With regard to development of such a system, i. e. five foot ground resolution, OSP estimates that the cost for design and development, plus six flight units, would be on the order of [REDACTED] if the 12" Mapping Camera is included. A 39-month development cycle is indicated to accomplish the program. This three-year period would have to be covered by either a reorder of CORONA J-3 systems or a combination of use of the CORONA Program with the six [REDACTED] vehicles now on order. In assessing [REDACTED] termination

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

SUBJECT: CORONA Improvement Program

costs, and the [REDACTED] CORONA J-3 reorder costs, it is the opinion of this office that even should the resolution requirement be restated, that best use can be made of the assets available for intelligence collection by continuation of the [REDACTED] Program through flight unit six. Regardless of the decision reached for providing continuity of coverage, additional FY 1970 funds in the amount of [REDACTED] will be required for the CORONA Program to cover development costs of the improved system for the period January through June 1970.

[REDACTED]
Director of Special Projects

Attachment a/s stated [REDACTED]

Distribution:
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
Page Two

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

TRANSMITTAL SLIP		DATE
TO: [REDACTED]		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	
REMARKS:		
<p>These are the documents I spoke to you about yesterday. They are for [REDACTED] information only, and are not to be released. He may keep them if he wants to otherwise, return them to me.</p>		
FROM:		
ROOM NO.	BUILDING	EXTENSION

These files are his own property is over?

FORM NO. 241
1 FEB 55

REPLACES FORM 36-B
WHICH MAY BE USED.

(47)

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~