

Copy [REDACTED]

12 APR 1965

**MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD**

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Messrs. Eugene Root and [REDACTED] of the Lockheed Missile and Space Company, Sunnyvale, California**

1. Messrs. Root and [REDACTED] made an appointment and called at my office on 24 March 1965 at 10:15 a.m. for approximately two hours. This was the second such visit in the span of one month and was significant only in that we had seen very little of them for the past year. The conversation opened with the usual Lockheed pleasantries and discussions of the "executive window."

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Messrs. Eugene Root and [REDACTED] of the Lockheed Missile and Space Company, Sunnyvale, California**

[REDACTED]

3. I was able to turn the conversation to the problem of the systems integration contract under which Lockheed is providing technical services to the CIA payload activities at the AP facility. I told them that I knew they had carried this effort on at company expense since last summer, and they confirmed that they had now committed more than [REDACTED] to supporting this effort for the government. I stated that in the beginning we had allowed this contract to go ahead without funding or definition because it seemed that its placement would be a natural consequence of a resolution of many issues affecting the CORONA program. I pointed out that this resolution had been extraordinarily slow in coming and that there may even be basis for believing that some of those involved were

[REDACTED]

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Messrs. Eugene Root and [REDACTED] of the Lockheed Missile and Space Company, Sunnyvale, California**

not anxious to have such a clarification. I stated quite frankly that the CIA proposal for resolution of the CORONA payload problem imagined a continuing of vital services provided to CIA by Lockheed and that their contract would be administered and managed by the Central Intelligence Agency. I made it plain that this solution had not been accepted by the Air Force and I was not sure whether it ever would be.

4. I made clear that we were aware of their dilemma of having no contract from us while being pressured to sign a contract with [REDACTED] for the same service. I stated that General Carter and I had agreed that we would present Lockheed with a CIA contract which would be retroactive and would cover the services now being provided. I said that they might feel continuing reluctance to choose between a contract offered by [REDACTED] and our own, but at least wanted to provide them with the assurance of our good will to cover their present investment and continue their services on our behalf. We then made a call to John McMahon to see what the status of this contract was and ascertained that Lockheed contract people were then coming in contact with our own on this issue.

5. The Lockheed people inquired what role [REDACTED] would play in their affairs if the CIA proposal were accepted. I offered my opinion that [REDACTED] is an element of support primarily to the Air Force, that if the Air Force were to manage CORONA, they should make full use of such help. I said that if we were to continue our responsibilities that we would be inclined to continue to rely on the technical support provided by Lockheed and saw very little use in duplicating this. I noted that there would undoubtedly be interfaces between Lockheed and [REDACTED] as the latter discharged its responsibility for systems engineering on the TROC and AGENA for the

**SUBJECT: Conversation with Messrs. Eugene Root and [redacted] of the Lockheed Missile and Space Company, Sunnyvale, California**

Air Force. The Lockheed people corrected me, stating that [redacted] carried no such responsibility on the THOR and AGENA and that they really seemed to be entering into CORONA only via the payload area under Air Force aegis. I expressed surprise at this.

6. [redacted] concluded the conversation by stating that he would "check with Brock to see what Brock wanted to do." He clearly favored the continuation of the CIA relationship, especially if it did not involve duplication by [redacted] but was quite naturally reluctant to cross himself with McMillan. I had the feeling that Lockheed would continue to walk the fence, and subsequent communications have confirmed this. The ball is now in Lockheed's court, but it was useful to have such a meeting at the time.

*Albert D. Wheelon*

**ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology**

cc: [redacted]

Distribution: [redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]