

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

8 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting of 26 June with Mr. McCone, General Carter, Dr. Fubini, and Dr. Wheelon

The matters discussed were: FULCRUM, the present need for thorough photographic coverage of the Soviet Union in search of new single-silo launch sites, and the status of Gambit 3. Mr. Maxie was present during the discussions of FULCRUM.

FULCRUM

The discussion touched on technical considerations but centered on the question of establishing a budgetary line item. Positions taken on major items of discussion by the participants are summarized below.

McCone: There is an urgent requirement for a new general search system having the capabilities of FULCRUM. Mr. McCone read a draft paper which proposed that the NRO be directed -

- a. To establish at once a development project for FULCRUM, as an NRO project,
- b. To assign this project to the CIA with complete responsibility for research, development, and operation,
- c. To apply development funds in the amounts required in FY 1965 and to budget appropriately thereafter,
- d. To direct SAFSP to supply necessary launch and recovery support.

Fubini: As long as major technical questions remain as to the causes of highly variable quality in the CORONA photography, money cannot be committed to the development of any new general search system. Specific technical problems more or less unique to FULCRUM must also be resolved before a decision can be made to develop this particular system. A budget line item in FY 65 should be established for a new general search system, identified as "S17", the exact technical description of this system being yet undetermined. In particular, the system finally selected for development might or might not be FULCRUM. Funds on S17 should be consistent with the fact that major technical questions remain to be studied so that a decision to initiate development cannot be made early in the year. If there is any CIA responsibility, it must be limited to the development phase and specifically to payload development. Questions were raised during the meeting on the subject of the desired management structure for the FULCRUM system. No answer was given during the meeting by the CIA representatives and therefore the management aspects were not discussed.

Wheelon: Study of the critical technical problems of FULCRUM will not take a large amount of money. There is [REDACTED] in the FY 65 budget proposed by Director, Program B, available for studies of satellite reconnaissance and as yet uncommitted. Some of this could be applied to study the key technical issues in FULCRUM. He was prepared to discuss the proposed use of this money with the ~~(S)~~ DNRO.

McMillan: NRO will authorize up to about [REDACTED] to be applied specifically to building an engineering prototype of the critical film transport system and subjecting it to definitive dynamical tests. These funds can come from the NRO budget item identified by Dr. Wheelon or from CIA resources remaining in FY 64. They will have to be applied under the management controls that were specified to

General Carter on the morning of 26 June and were transmitted to General Carter in McMillan's memorandum for record of that meeting. In addition to the technical question raised by Fubini, and critical technical questions specific to FULCRUM, the basic question, how FULCRUM performs against the true general search requirements in comparison to other possible general search systems must also be examined.

Further discussion. The question, whether year-end CIA funds would be applied was discussed but not settled. One factor was whether funds could actually be obligated by the end of the fiscal year. A Xerox copy of a memorandum prepared by, but not at that time signed by, Dr. Wheelon was circulated. It recorded views and findings of Dr. Land's committee which had reviewed FULCRUM that morning. Dr. Wheelon stated that this memorandum had not been reviewed by or concurred in by Dr. Land. Mr. McCone stated the findings of the Land Committee as essentially that they saw no fundamental technical difficulties but that at least two and perhaps three basic technical unknowns must be examined.

Search of USSR

Mr. McCone cited the new findings of single silo launchers under construction as examples implying the urgent need for general photographic search of the Soviet Union. McMillan recommended that a CORONA mission during July be programmed for area search, using monoscopic photography for maximum coverage. The Matter was referred to Dr. Wheelon for consideration.

GAMBIT 3

During the discussion McMillan stated that about [REDACTED] was proposed for G3 during FY 65. Mr. McCone questioned the requirement, in comparison to the need for a new general

search system, and stated that he had not been informed that such a decision was being considered or made. McMillan identified the decision at this point as his own. He pointed out that the G3 concept had been discussed with Dr. Wheelon, and that in a briefing to USIB he had described it and had stated that contracted studies were in progress.

Brookway McMillan