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PERSONAL FOR OR BROWN, SEC AF, FROM GEN SCHRIEVER, SAFSL.
INFORMATION FOR SAFRD AND SAFSL, GEN EVANS. THIS MESSAGE IN
3 PARTS.

PART I. DURING THE LAST WEEK, I HAVE REVIEWED PRESENTATIONS OF SAFSP AND THE MOL SYSTEMS OFFICE COVERING COSTS AND SCHEDULES FOR THE MOL PROGRAM. IN ADDITION, I HAVE CONSIDERED ALL AVAILABLE GUIDANCE ON FY 57, FY 68, AND SUBSEQUENT FISCAL YEAR FUNDS, AND ALSO HAVE REVIEWED THE GUIDANCE RECEIVED FROM PSAC AND THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE CONCERNING THE MOL PROGRAM.

CONSIDERING ALL OF THE FOREGOING INFORMATION, I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT THE ONLY REASONABLE COURSE OF ACTION FOR THE MOL PROGRAM AT THIS

TIME IS TO ADJUST THE MOL FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS FOLLOWS:

A. OMIT FROM FUTURE CONSIDERATION, PRE-MOL ENVIRONMENTAL FLIGHT TEST PREVIOUSLY CONSIDERED FOR THE MID-1967 TIME PERIOD USING T-III RAD BOOSTER NUMBER SIXTEEN.

B. REDUCE THE CURRENT MOL FLIGHT PROGRAM FROM NINE LAUNCHES TO

EIGHT. ADJUST THE SCHEDULE FOR THESE EIGHT AS FOLLOWS:

(1) FIRST FLIGHT APRIL 1969. FLIGHT OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE.
INITIAL UNMANNED FLIGHT TEST OF SEVEN SEGVENT T-III LAUNCH VEHICLE.

(2) SECOND FLIGHT AUGUST 1969. FLIGHT OBJECTIVE: UNMANNED FLIGHT QUALIFICATION OF THE GEMINI B, AND A SECOND LAUNCH VEHICLE DEVELOPMENT FLIGHT.

(3) THIRD FLIGHT APRIL 1970, FIRST MANNED FLIGHT. FLIGHT OBJECTIVE IS TO PROVIDE FOR ALL SYSTEMS TEST OF TOTAL SYSTEMS TO INCLUDE FLIGHT QUALITY, HIGH RESOLUTION, OPTICAL SYSTEM.

(4) FLIGHTS FOUR THRU EIGHT TO BE CONDUCTED ON THREE-MONTH

CENTERS, WITH FLIGHT OBJECTIVES AS CURRENTLY DEFINED.

PART II. A BRIEFING WILL BE AVAILABLE SHOULD YOU DESIRE IT TO PROVIDE THE RATIONALE AND FACTORS CONSIDERED IN ARRIVING AT THIS DECISION. IN SUMMARY, THE APRIL 1970 FLIGHT DATE IS GOVERNED BY THE AVAILABILITY OF FLIGHT QUALITY OPTICS. THE ELIMINATION OF A MANNED FLIGHT TO MAN RATE THE GEMINI B AND LABORATORY VEHICLE PRIOR TO THE ALL UP SYSTEMS FLIGHT TEST IN APRIL 1970 IS FORCED BY FY 67 AND FY 68 CONSIDERATIONS. THE CHANGE TO THREE-MONTH CENTERS FOR SUBSEQUENT FLIGHTS IS MADE IN THE INTEREST OF REDUCING TOTAL PROGRAM COST.

PART III. I INTEND TO NOTIFY THE ASSOCIATE CONTRACTOR STRUCTURE ON 12 APRIL TO COST THIS NEW SCHEDULE. CONCURRENTLY, I WILL PROVIDE THE NECESSARY WHITE RATIONALE AND RESPONSE TO QUERIES TO SUPPORT THE POSSIBLE SCHEDULE CHANGE SINCE IT IS DOUBTFUL THAT A SCHEDULE CHANGE CAN LONG AVOID PUBLICITY.

Ser A, Cy:

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