



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



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OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

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Dr. Brockway McMillan
Director, National Reconnaissance Office
Washington, D. C.

Dear Brock:

I have examined the correspondence on focusing and strengthening CIA participation in the CORONA program. There is much common ground in this exchange, some points on which explicit agreement is not evident, and a few issues where we may be seeing the matter entirely differently. As I explained over the phone, before we proceed to Los Angeles to implement the general plan it appears essential that we develop a completely parallel and consistent definition of that which we are to implement, so as to avoid any possible discussion of differences in the presence of our subordinates.

It appears that we are in complete agreement on the following, that: (a) a single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and ~~that this should be~~ [REDACTED]; (b) he ~~should~~ exercise over-all technical direction of the program and be responsible to the DNRO for

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its successful prosecution, who would in turn be responsible to Mr. McCone and Mr. Vance; (c) all CIA activities in CORONA, including security and contracting, should come to a focus in [redacted] who in turn would be responsible to [redacted] (d) [redacted] will provide systems engineering for the program, (but not technical ~~direction of the contractors~~); (e) a CORONA payload Advisory Committee reporting to [redacted] should replace the old Payload Configuration Control Board. ~~The chairman of the committee should be [redacted].~~ The chairman will be [redacted]

in accordance with current contracts

*and follow up on the contract...
for the...
which...
advised...*

The original proposal of Mr. McCone contains several points which have not been specifically addressed in Mr. Vance's letter, but about which we need agreement before proceeding. These really hinge on the definition of "CIA activities in CORONA," a phrase which appears several times in the correspondence. I consider that the following applies: (a) the AP facility at Palo Alto, its personnel and functions remain a CIA activity and would report to [redacted], and be responsible to [redacted] through him; (b) the camera programming function performed at the AP facility would continue to be directly responsive to the Satellite Operations Center of the NRO for target requirements, as it always has been; (c) [redacted] would provide a single point of contact for the payload contractors, Lockheed, GE and ITEK, on all matters pertaining to their contracts. This would include contracting, security, and technical direction, subject to the final approval of [redacted]. This relationship would govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for payload improvement and the issuance of new directives; (d) the systems integration contract with Lockheed [redacted] should continue to be a CIA contract under [redacted], as it is an integral part

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of the activity at the AP facility; (e) required funds to support CIA contracts ^{will} be included in the CIA portion of the NRO budget; (f) ~~██████████~~ would be the project manager for the CORONA Payload reporting directly to ~~██████████~~ in parallel with ~~██████████~~ who ~~will~~ be project manager for the remainder of the system (i.e., THOR, AGENA, LAUNCH, etc.). ~~(The language of Mr. Vance's letter suggests that ██████████ is to exercise complete control of the entire program i.e., "CORONA Project Director" and ██████████ would assist him in a way which has yet to be defined); (g) ██████████ should act as chairman of the CORONA Payload Advisory Committee in order to carry out the functions outlined in Mr. McCone's letter of 6 October.~~

When you have examined these points, let us meet and draft terms of reference for ~~██████████~~. Then we can proceed to Los Angeles and the rapid implementation of this over-all plan.

Faithfully yours,



Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director

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