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26 April 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: MR. DULLES

SUBJECT : Project CORONA

Herewith is a paper for your signature which will formalize for internal CIA purposes your approval of Project CORONA and authorize me to administer the Project in much the same way that AQUATONE (now renamed ) has been administered. Although this would formally direct the Agency Comptroller to seek funds from the Agency Reserve, this action has in fact already been accomplished and the authority contained in the attached is merely to clear the record.

This memorandum was drafted by Mr. Saunders and I have asked that it be approved by the General Counsel before you sign it. (The General Counsel has now been made witting of CORONA so that I may have his assistance as required in the contracting and business aspects of that Project).

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RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.

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25 April 1958

WORK STATEMENT

DEVELOPMENT OF A SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE AND RECOVERY SYSTEM

Develop and provide, except as specifically set forth below, all equipment, services, and facilities necessary to complete a program of photo-reconnaissance of the Soviet Union. The photo-reconnaissance system shall have the following design parameters and objectives:

- a. A satellite-borne system compatible with the WS-117L system but employing the Thor booster.
- b. The design will be compatible with the overt biomedical program of WS-117L.
- c. Photographs shall be obtained at a ground resolution of 25 feet or better (as defined in the basic WS-117L contract) with a positional accuracy objective of ± 1 mile.
- d. Maximum possible ground coverage shall be obtained consistent with the ground resolution requirements and payload capability of the booster system.
- e. Latent image film shall be recovered by means of ballistic re-entry and land or sea recovery.
- f. The center of the recovery area shall be within 200 nautical miles of a designated location with a dispersion (90% of impacts) of $x = \pm 200$ nautical miles, $y = \pm 75$ nautical miles or less.

Delivery of equipment to the flight test and operations shall be in accordance with the attached schedule. The actual firing dates will be governed by target operational factors. The dates set forth on the delivery schedule represent the flight readiness dates.

The following shall be provided by the Government and shall not be developed or supplied under this contract:

- a. Thor boosters, associated receipt checkout and launch facilities, equipment and services.

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Copy No. [redacted]

b. All items and services developed or used on the WS-117L program which can profitably support this reconnaissance program. These elements will be programmed overtly in appropriate quantities and in a timely fashion, as part of either the basic WS-117L or the biomedical satellite programs, or of other programs as may be determined but will actually be intended to support this recoverable reconnaissance program. The intent is to retain as many elements of the overall operation in an overt status as possible. Where an item or service can be programmed openly without revealing its ultimate usage, it will be charged to the cover program and not to this contract.

c. Recovery ships and/or aircraft, and their normal operating personnel and support. (Special equipment, training or trained personnel required for search and recovery will be provided by the contractor).

d. Special receipt and checkout space and facilities at the launch site.

Establish and maintain technical and management control of such subcontractors as are required for the proper execution of the work statement. Major subcontractors include:

a. ITEK Corporation will develop and manufacture the reconnaissance camera and associated equipment.

b. General Electric Company will develop and manufacture the re-entry body.

Technical direction of the program is the joint responsibility of several agencies of the Government. In the interest of effective management, however, such direction will be provided primarily by and through the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division acting as the agent for all interested components of the Government. A Project Officer will be established in BMD as the single day-by-day point of contact for the contractor. This Officer will have authority to make on-the-spot decisions within the scope of the work statement on all matters pertaining to the program other than those of major importance. From time to time the Government agencies concerned will jointly review the progress of the program. The Government will make arrangements to permit the prompt rendering of major decisions concerning the program which cannot be made by the Project Officer.

Special security measures will be required throughout the program. The complete security plan, clearance of facilities and of individuals knowledgeable of the program, and other matters relating to security will be under the direction of a designated authority within the Government. The contractor will provide

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such special security measures within his own facilities, subcontractors' facilities, or Government facilities provided for this project, as may be required to conform with the security plan.

Prepare monthly letter status reports which present in brief form the technical and fiscal status of the program. The fiscal status shall show separately the status of the major subcontractors.

Attachment:
Delivery Schedule

Total 3 pages w/1 1-page attach.

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DELIVERY SCHEDULE

CY 1958

CY 1959

A M J J A S O N D J F M A M J J A S O N D

ITEM

DESIGN RELEASE

- Structure & Installations
- Auxiliary Power Unit
- Antennas
- Ground Equipment

x x x x

PROTOTYPE

- Fabrication & Assembly
- Test

x x

MOCKUP

- Complete Space Utilization
- Complete Weight & Balance

x x

FLIGHT UNITS

- Assembly & Test
- Spare Units

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1 1

FLIGHT SCHEDULE

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