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This document contains information
referring to Project CORONA

Copy [REDACTED]

22 August 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : CORONA and [REDACTED] Discussion with Mr. [REDACTED]
Bureau of the Budget, [REDACTED] and Mr. [REDACTED]

1. Mr. [REDACTED] called advising that the Director of the Budget, Mr. Stans, had questioned the cover expenditures with regard to CORONA, in particular the three bio-med shots. Mr. [REDACTED] recalled a briefing by Mr. Bissell with regard to the use of the bio-med shots as cover for the Agency/CORONA operations, but he could not recall the substance of this briefing. After discussing the problem with Gen. Flickinger, who stated that most of the money might be furnished by the Air Force and BMD, Mr. [REDACTED] and I met with Mr. [REDACTED]
2. Mr. [REDACTED] briefed Mr. [REDACTED] on the background with regard to CORONA cover and the need for evidence to validate the cover story. I advised that Mr. [REDACTED] had written to Dr. Killian recently stating that the bio-med program would furnish useful data for ARPA and that in his opinion it was a sound cover for CORONA. I did not show the letter or any other document to Mr. [REDACTED]. Mr. [REDACTED] noted the substance of Mr. [REDACTED] briefing as well as the statements I made with regard to Mr. [REDACTED] letter to Dr. Killian. He said he now understood and believed he could explain it to the satisfaction of Mr. [REDACTED]. He added that with the national deficit expected, every budget item will receive very close scrutiny, particularly those difficult to explain either from a security viewpoint or for any other reason.
3. Mr. [REDACTED] then reviewed his knowledge of the [REDACTED] program and stated that he had been of the opinion that the Agency's efforts would terminate and the Department of Defense assume this function. He was advised by Mr. [REDACTED] that the history of the project had been a direct reflection of the capability of our equipment to survive. The project has lived from a 6-month to 6-month period, and the present estimate is that our equipment will be useful until about 1 January 1960. Mr. [REDACTED] took note of this fact.
4. I then reviewed for Mr. [REDACTED] the SAC program and the limitations on the use of the SAC equipment both with regard to actual capability at present as well as the political and cover aspects, i.e. operation of a SAC unit outside the Western Hemisphere would jeopardize our NACA cover program and reveal the true nature of [REDACTED] activities. I explained that therefore the Department of

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Defense and all concerned felt that overflights should be made in the manner now used and by our organization.

5. I further briefed Mr. [REDACTED] on our emergency war plans proposals and understanding with SAC. Further, that in the event of war, SAC would be inheriting fine equipment and highly skilled people, thus greatly enhancing the immediate capability for either additional reconnaissance or for bomb damage assessment. All of this seemed to make sense to Mr. [REDACTED]. He said that he believed he had sufficient information for his purpose but that he would appreciate a paper outlining [REDACTED] past, present and future plans. I told him that we would furnish him such a paper, and I have asked the staff to work on this.

[REDACTED]

Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director, DPS/DCI

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