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5 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)

THROUGH : Chief, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Project CORONA
(AFCIN, Awareness by Unauthorized Personnel)

REFERENCE : [redacted] - 2 December 1958
[redacted] - 6 November 1958

1. Due to our absence from the D.C. area, it has been difficult for [redacted] and I to review his reported awareness of the CORONA Program.

2. On 27 February we met and discussed this matter at length. He explained his apparent awareness of CORONA as follows:

(a) No specific person advised him of the existence of CORONA as originally seemed to be the case.

(b) He acquired the impression that a satellite project was being conducted by this Agency (yourself) for the following reasons:

(1) The Air Force stopped its effort to develop a Follow-on aircraft.

(2) The Air Force dropped its most promising reconnaissance mechanism, the recovery capsule feature within WS-117L.

(3) ARPA, in the persons of [redacted] and [redacted] contacted [redacted] as Chairman of Requirements for WS-117L and talked with him regarding requirements vital during 1959.

(4) As a member of the "Phil Strong Committee" assessing satellite reconnaissance, [redacted] was privy to the recommendation that such reconnaissance be accomplished in the immediate future via a recoverable satellite.

Declassified and Released by [redacted]

In Accordance with E. O. 12958
on NOV 26 1997

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958
on NOV 26 1997

(5) [REDACTED] participation in ARC and his close contact with intelligence collection methods and sources made him sensitive to the probability that this Agency was directly concerned with a recoverable reconnaissance satellite.

3. The above was [REDACTED] explanation for his leading questioning of Mr. Reber regarding the "most recent Bissell project." It is my view that we have here an accumulation of awareness by [REDACTED] acquired through several sources (AFCIN, ARPA and WS-117L), and he skillfully surfaced the subject when he felt the interest of the intelligence community, and AFCIN in particular, warranted his probing the issue.

4. I feel this situation can't be resolved further. However, it does point out a hypersensitiveness within the intelligence community that must be recognized and taken into account whenever a maximum compartmentation effort is contemplated. I plan no further action.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Distribution:

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