

13 March 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: DCI
EDCI

SUBJECT : Dissolution of the CORONA Project Office

1. The CORONA program has been handled from its beginning by a group of about ten Air Force officers in the "Program Office" at the Space Systems Division of the Air Force. This group under Colonel Battle and now Colonel Worthington has handled the day-to-day problems associated with CORONA as the directive authority has changed from Bissell to Charyk to McMillan.

2. McMillan has twice requested that we concur in his transfer of this unit to [redacted] special unit under his immediate control [redacted] as part of his plan to give the entire program to the Air Force. You have twice disapproved this proposal.

3. We now have cables indicating that the Program Office is to be dissolved and its people transferred elsewhere. Its function is to be recreated under [redacted] organization as the Program Office under [redacted]

4. The significance of this action is that perforce the program is being transferred to [redacted] without our concurrence.

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
(Science and Technology)

Attachments:
[redacted]

Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958
NOV 26 1997

ODD/S&T:adw:jlp:7713
Distribution:

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9 MAR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)
SUBJECT: Air Force Organization on CORONA Program

1. This memorandum is for information only. It is based on a briefing of [redacted], OSA, by Col. Ralph Ford of the [redacted] on 5 March 1964.

2. The current CORONA system is operated out of the Space Systems Division (SSD) of the Air Force Systems Command, ostensibly as a research and development payload. The unclassified designator is "Program [redacted]", the classified name (DOD) is "Discoverer." Gen. Funk is Commander, SSD. Col. Worthington reports to Gen. Funk, head of the Program [redacted] Office, with [redacted] as deputy. Captains Johnson and [redacted] have been performing the day-by-day coordination with the LMSC/AP organization.

3. Director, NRO, Program A, operating from adjacent quarters, as Commander, [redacted], SSD, is surfacing soon a "new" program, Program [redacted], with avowed aim of solving certain critical problems arising in other programs under his cognizance. In actuality, this new program, Program [redacted], will pick up the CORONA program, now under [redacted] rather than SSD.

4. Program [redacted] will be terminated with the last flight in about April. Residual hardware will be transferred to the high priority Program [redacted]. Col. Worthington will stay with # [redacted] for normal termination activities. As available and needed, personnel will be transferred to Program [redacted] from [redacted]. Col. Worthington will probably be reassigned to Vandenberg. Capt. Johnson is to go to staff school; [redacted] will be transferred to Program [redacted] under [redacted] essentially maintaining his present duties. [redacted] was [redacted] project officer for the now defunct E-6 Program.

Handle via [redacted]
~~Control System~~

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

5. By June, the total direction of the effort will have been transferred from Col. Worthington to [REDACTED]. Concurrently, formal responsibility will have shifted from Gen. Funk to [REDACTED]. Contractors have been alerted to the changes; appropriate cover stories are being generated and disseminated.

6. The apparent, overall effect of this reorganization is to formalize and solidify the current role of [REDACTED] in directing CORONA as part of NRO, Program A.

[REDACTED]

COLONEL, USAF
Assistant Director

cc: SAS/S&T

~~TOP SECRET~~

[REDACTED]

DATE 2357Z 06 MAR 64

~~SECRET~~



TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : [REDACTED]

ACTION: OSA 1-15

INFO :

TCR: 0040Z 7 MAR 64

Handwritten signature/initials

ROUTINE

[REDACTED]

TO

[REDACTED]

INFO

CITE

[REDACTED]

CORONA SECUR

1. INFO RECEIVED HERE THAT DNRC HAS WIRED GEN. FUN. ADVISING THAT THE PROGRAM DESIGNATOR [REDACTED] PROGRAM" HAS BEEN TERMINATED. THIS MSG REPORTEDLY STATED THAT THE ASSETS OF THE PROGRAM SHOULD BE TRANSFERRED TO OTHER AREAS OR ACTIVITIES WHICH HAVE USE FOR THEM.

2. PLANS REPORTED TO INCLUDE: FUNCTIONS OF [REDACTED] TO BE COVERTLY TRANSFERRED TO THE DIRECTORSHIP OF [REDACTED], THE TECHNICAL DIRECTORSHIP TRANSFERRED FROM COL WORTHINGTON TO [REDACTED]. THE CONTINUING ACTIVITY BEING GIVEN A NEW PROGRAM DESIGNATOR.

3. PLANNING FOR THE CONTRACTOR AT SUNNYVALE HAS NOT BEEN LEARNED AT THIS TIME.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and
declassification

[REDACTED]