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[REDACTED]
Copy [REDACTED]

9 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Unsolved Management and Relationship

REFERENCE: [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]

1. In a telephone conversation at 1515 hours today with [REDACTED] Director, NRO Staff, the above messages and the position of Lt. Colonel Webb, CORONA Project AP Facilities Officer, Palo Alto, California, were discussed.

2. The undersigned suggested to [REDACTED] that the difficulties referred to in [REDACTED] and its counterpart [REDACTED] are, in large measure, local manifestation of the inherent management conflict between Program A, the NRO Staff and this Agency. In two years, the payload responsibility and direction of the CORONA Program has not been resolved. While the NRO and Director, Program A, are of the view that they are directing the entire CORONA Program, the Agency still maintains its view that the Agency is responsible for payload management. There have been no formal decisions clarifying this difference of opinion. Therefore, I cannot accept the view that the [REDACTED] Program Director, under [REDACTED] has authority over the entire CORONA Program to include payload management and, in this circumstance, Lt. Colonel Vernon Webb, whom I indicated is a very competent and dedicated officer, has no alternative but to

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pursue his function as heretofore established both as payload operating officer and contract representative.

3. [REDACTED] indicated that he did not expect an immediate reply to his wire and that we could "sit on it for a while". My expressed objective is to wait until the CORONA management problems are resolved. [REDACTED] further suggested that Colonel Webb might do better trying to make friends with a lot of people.

4. It should be noted that Colonel Webb has been placed in a very difficult role within a controversial chain of command and accordingly the evaluation of his performance should not be made out of the context of this unusual management environment.

5. In a subsequent 'phone call to Colonel Webb, this same date, I indicated appreciation of the problem and his devotion to his responsibilities. I told Colonel Webb I had talked to [REDACTED] and pointed out to [REDACTED] that the real issue is the very basic conflict over who has primary management responsibilities to the CORONA project in the payload area. Further, until this issue is resolved, we can only proceed as we have heretofore and do the best job possible under these circumstances.

[REDACTED]
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

Distribution:
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