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4 May 1959

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 28 April 1959

Personnel Present - Mr. Bissell

[redacted]

Mr. Reber

Mr. Anderson

[redacted]

Mr. Parangosky

[redacted]

Mr. Kiefer

Mr. Kucera

[redacted]

[redacted]

[redacted]

2.

[redacted]

[redacted]

3.

[redacted]

ACTION: Mr. Kucera

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Mr. Bissell indicated that Gen. Flickinger will continue to be the senior point of contact with ARDC on pilot systems and that a meeting with him prior to Mr. Bissell's departure for Rome (6 May) is desirable.

ACTION: [REDACTED]

4. CORONA MEETING - Mr. Kucera reported on the 23 April CORONA meeting. The first CORONA shot will be 8 June, the second will be on 18 June. At the present pace, if slippage continues, the shots will last until December. With this in mind, a reassessment of the schedule will be made in a month's time.

Alternate pay loads were discussed at the meeting and all parties are favorably disposed. They would include geophysical-type items, TV-type equipment, AEC battery package (the latter's only value is for propaganda).

Camera #4 has been removed and camera #5 is being used in tests. Camera #4 has been returned to IPEK for reworking.

Mr. Kucera commented that we will need advance notice on approval problem. Mr. Bissell stated it looked favorable.

Mr. Kucera reported that Col. Shepherd is expected to leave at the end of the week for his new assignment with Gen. Schriever.

The next shot will test the sun indicator device.

A session was held on counter measures to be used in case of (1) equipment failure (e.g. no communications), (2) jamming, (3) and false commands when gate open (17 minutes). It was felt that CIA might be able to help with technical advice on (2) and (3) above and Mr. Bissell suggested that any input would be welcome.

Mr. Kucera stated that the DISCOVERER II shot was considered technically successful. (A later meeting with Col. Mathison disclosed that he is convinced that the reported descent of the nose cone in Spitzbergen Islands was a fact, that it had not been recovered by anyone and probably would not be, due to the roughness of terrain there.)

Shake tests have been conducted successfully at 4 G's. Tests are expected to go as high as 7 G's on Camera #5.

Mr. Bissell asked [REDACTED] to prepare a paper by mid-May, summarizing findings on alternate packages, taking into account when the operations become of marginal utility in autumn and when operations might profitably start in the spring.

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Mr. Bissell directed that in September a hard look be taken at the program with possibly an eye to giving more responsibility to the Air Force, particularly in procurement.

5. [REDACTED]

6. [REDACTED]

APPROVED:

[REDACTED]
Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

Distribution:
[REDACTED]

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