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17 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Conversations with [redacted] of [redacted] Office on 15 November Regarding Background and Structure of EHO

1. John Parangosky, [redacted], and I had an interrupted but quite productive discussion with [redacted] 15 November as a preliminary step toward getting down to brass tacks on the structure and definition of responsibilities for the EHO. [redacted] had come over to discuss with us the possible assignment of one or two Army or Navy officers to EHO as a result of the invitation extended by Dr. Charyk to the Secretaries of the Navy and the Army to nominate candidates for assignment to EHO. Navy and Army have both nominated four technically qualified officers, and Dr. Charyk reportedly feels that he can sit still for no more than two from each Service. At the moment his thinking is that one officer from each Service could probably be assigned to [redacted] field extension office in El Segundo, California (AFSIB). This leaves the assignment of the other two somewhat indefinite, and [redacted] suggestion was that EHO consider accepting an assignment possibly as many as one from each Service or one from either Service with the odd man out in the second case presumably coming to rest under [redacted]. [redacted] had the biographic information on the officers above and left this with John Parangosky at the end of our talk.

2. The conversation then turned to the personnel setup of Dr. Charyk's office in general and [redacted] office in particular. [redacted] gave us a rundown on the various responsibilities of the primary officer personnel working with him and [redacted]. There total five officers and five specific jobs. They are:

- a. [redacted]. He is Program Staff Officer for CONCHA, ARCON, and NERAC. In addition, he is responsible for Program 1 (SAMOS-E-4), as well as SAMOS E-5.

[redacted]  
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raised the question of EPD representation across the River ( ), ( ) said that it was his view, reflecting Dr. Charyk's, that Burke would assume senior responsibilities in his professional field and that ( ) who will replace the present Warrant Officer commandant, would function as ( ) de facto deputy. I told ( ) that I felt I was reflecting Mr. Bissell when I said that I felt ( ) could function in a little broader sense than being limited strictly to security and clearance problems. With this there seemed to be no identifiable difference on ( ) part.

4. ( ) said that Dr. Charyk's stated view was that NRO would not become a single geographic entity confined to one office. He sees ( ) and his ten-man staff on the West Coast as being an integral part of NRO, as well as his own office in the Pentagon and Mr. Bissell's office and EPD in CIA. ( ) said that he interpreted Dr. Charyk as feeling that there were three basic objectives to NRO, and they were:

- a. To formalize inter-Agency relationships regarding existing reconnaissance programs and procedures and make them function smoothly and effectively.
- b. To put the full abilities of the Air Force and CIA in a position to get the best job possible done with CIA assuming responsibility functionally for such things as contracts for black programs, as well as security, cover, and supporting cover mechanisms for covert programs either in the Agency or Air Force.
- c. Design and embark on new programs to become effective when existing programs fail, are compromised, or become obsolete.

5. We then discussed generally the existing communications structure in Dr. Charyk's office as a background for resolving communications problems in the combined effort of NRO. ( ) shop has three basic communications facilities, and they are:

- a. Open line telephone between ( ) and ( ) on the West Coast.
- b. TX, which is a private on-line system for classified messages between ( ) and ( ).
- c. KY-9 telephone system between ( ) and ( ) at the present moment, although General Schriever, Commander, AFEC, is reportedly desiring to have it.

( )  
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Incidentally, in General Schriever's office there are three people with whom [redacted] does business on HEO matters. They are: [redacted] and a [redacted] [redacted] said that in connection with our ghostly communications with [redacted] whereby our only notification of COMCOM launches is through the courtesy of the UPI ticker, he felt it would be no problem to add a drop line in our office to his basic line between Washington and the Vandenberg command post. This would give us immediate info from the blackhouse and permit launch information of an unclassified sort in extremely prompt fashion. He said that it would be inappropriate, of course, for us to be linked directly to the command post for cover reasons, but he felt the command people could have our connection become a takeoff on their basic drop line arrangement. By the way, [redacted] of [redacted] office is the individual who is responsible, in addition to his other duties, for communications, and it is he with whom [redacted] will deal and has been talking regarding CIA's and of HEO communications requirements.

6. Our discussions did not go substantially much beyond what I have noted above, simply because we ran out of time. I do not gain the impression that [redacted] people have carried their planning to a point where we are up against a brick wall as far as their flexibility is concerned. There were numerous informal exchanges between us during the afternoon regarding the need for further consultations, the design of mechanisms for certain joint decisions between Mr. Bissell and Dr. Charyk on such programs as COMCOM, and general agreement that it would be worthwhile to agree on a term as between "program" and "project", since the usage is not identical in the Army and the Air Force. We plan to meet again 17 November with [redacted] to carry the discussions further. He did indicate that Dr. Charyk had seen the 13 October Special Group minutes, and while he did not comment substantially upon them as yet, he had charged [redacted] and [redacted] with the job of preparing a draft which we could then discuss with Mr. Bissell, leading to the paper referred to in the 13 October minutes needed by [redacted] on the subject of the HEO. [redacted] was mentioned by [redacted] as having primary cognizance over airframe projects as opposed to General Curtin who was assumed to be responsible principally for satellite systems.

SIGNED

[redacted]  
Assistant Chief  
IPS-DS/P

Distribution:

[redacted]

[redacted]  
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