

1 February 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: CORONA

1. After studying the operations as they are now performed of the CORONA program, it is my opinion that technical direction by the U.S. Government as it pertains to the payload is not being exercised either by CIA or by the Air Force. The reason that this is the case is the same both as regards CIA and the Air Force, since neither has available to it in sufficient number technically qualified people to effectively supervise the immensely detailed and complex ramifications of the operation.

[REDACTED] who now has technical direction of the payload recognizes this defect in the Air Force and desires to remedy this shortfalling by calling on the resources of [REDACTED] to discharge his technical direction responsibilities. CIA has been invited by [REDACTED] to make available to him or his staff such technically competent personnel as CIA may wish to assign to him. Were CIA to comply with this invitation it would not be exercising technical direction, but might be assisting [REDACTED] in advising him as to whether [REDACTED] was doing the proper job on behalf of the Air Force. For CIA, at this juncture, to interpose objections to [REDACTED] using [REDACTED] to

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

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help him discharge his responsibility for technical direction of the payload makes no sense to me. The key to effective Government supervision of a contract lies in its technical direction by qualified experts and, since this responsibility has been assigned to [REDACTED] as far as CORONA is concerned, I see no substitute arrangements [REDACTED] whereby CIA can be considered to have even a residual equity in the ^{As the technical direction is concerned} program. The so-called ^{Corona} [REDACTED] arrangement" is window dressing and lacks effective substance.

