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February 3, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, PROGRAM A
DIRECTOR, PROGRAM B

SUBJECT: Operating and Engineering Objectives for CORONA

This memorandum sets forth a statement of policy for the CORONA project against which engineering objectives can be set and engineering decisions made. It, further, establishes procedures by which DNRO will be kept informed of the degree to which this policy is effective, and will be made aware of any problems that may create a need for further guidance.

Program Directors will see that the guidance contained herein is made clear to the affected administrative and contracting offices, to the members of the Configuration Control Board, and to the appropriate engineering supervision in the organizations of the affected associate contractors.

All items of equipment, however supplied to the project, all applicable engineering effort, and all test, check-out, and launch services are considered to be within the scope of this directive.

General Policy

1. The primary objective of the CORONA project is to achieve consistent reliable returns of intelligence photography of a quality comparable to that of the best experienced during 1963, on a schedule closely approximating that laid down in advance by the DNRO, and in a manner responsive to the targeting guidance supplied by USIB. Within the limits permitted by this objective, it shall be the policy to stabilize the configuration of the CORONA system, maintaining a fixed configuration with uniform procedures for test, check-out and launch.

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2. It is a secondary objective to improve the performance of the CORONA system in quality, in responsiveness to intelligence needs, and in reliability and economy. It is considered that stability of configuration will contribute importantly to this objective.

3. The amount of engineering effort expended on this project must be controlled to insure that this effort is always and economically directed toward approved objectives of high priority. Changes will not be introduced into the system or its operation except as they are judged essential to meet the primary objective, or are judged to contribute significantly toward specific, important, identifiable improvements in quality, responsiveness, reliability or economy.

Policy on Ancillary Payloads and Experiments

4. Secondary or ancillary payloads and experiments will not be scheduled for or carried on a CORONA mission without the explicit approval of DNRO. No CORONA mission will be specially configured to accept such payloads or experiments without specific approval from DNRO.

5. No engineering effort will be expended against development or integration of ancillary payloads or of experiments without explicit prior approval of DNRO.

6. In general, DNRO expects to approve for initiation or for flight only those ancillary payloads or those experiments that in his judgment: either contribute significantly to knowledge about the performance of the CORONA system, or are necessary to the engineering or development of specific desired improvements to the system.

Initiation of System Improvements

7. It will be the policy to initiate efforts toward improvement of the system only when the effort is specific in nature, when the effort is directed toward a specific identified improvement in quality, responsiveness, reliability or economy, when it is judged that this improvement will be significant

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and desirable in the light of the cost to attain it, and when it is judged that the improvement can be brought about without significant risk to the primary objectives of the project. Engineering directed toward improvements judged to be highly desirable, which do not demonstrably fail the last two criteria, may be considered for initiation on a phased basis to arrive early and in an economical manner at judgments relative to these two criteria.

8. In general, changes directed toward improvement of the system will be instituted in two or more steps. The final step will be accomplished by approval of a separate technical directive authorizing introduction of the change into scheduled flight systems or procedures. Prior to this step, initiation of engineering, procurement, and fabrication will be accomplished by approval of a technical directive, or by approval in sequence of a number of separate directives, approvals being phased as may be needed to implement the objectives of paragraph 7 above.

9. The Chairman of the Configuration Control Board (CCB) or his designated representative will keep DNRO informed on a timely basis of significant matters pending before the CCB that come under the scope of the policies here set forth. Information to be presented will include a pertinent description and status of the effort proposed; CCB disposition of these matters, whether favorable or unfavorable, will be reported as effected.

10. Document SP3-279, Operating Procedure for Systems Engineering and Technical Direction, dated 10 June 1963 and incorporated by reference into applicable contracts, establishes procedures for Government approval and transmittal of technical direction to CORONA contractors. DNRO directs that henceforth the following administrative practices be observed in SAFSP in accomplishing the procedures outlined in the referenced document: Subsequent to approval of a technical directive by the CCB, but prior to its approval by the designated representative of AFSSD, and prior to its transmittal for implementation, the technical directive and necessary supporting documentation will be reviewed by DNRO or, at his direction, by the Deputy DNRO. Following this review, the TD and documentation will be returned to SAFSP with DNRO comments for further action as appropriate.

SIGNED:

Brockway McMillan

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