

~~TOP SECRET~~

BYE-2464-64

Copy /

9 MAR 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director (Science and Technology)

SUBJECT: Air Force Organization on CORONA Program

1. This memorandum is for information only. It is based on a briefing of A. Holser, OSA, by Col. Ralph Ford of the Secretary of the Air Force Special Projects Office (SAFSP) on 5 March 1964.
2. The current CORONA system is operated out of the Space Systems Division (SSD) of the Air Force Systems Command, ostensibly as a research and development payload. The unclassified designator is "Program 162", the classified name (DOD) is "Discoverer." Gen. Funk is Commander, SSD. Col. Worthington reports to Gen. Funk, head of the Program 162 Office, with [redacted] as deputy. Captains Johnson and [redacted] have been performing the day-by-day coordination with the LMSC/AP organization.
3. Director, NRO, Program A, operating from adjacent quarters, as Commander, Special Projects, SSD, is surfacing soon a "new" program, Program 241, with avowed aim of solving certain critical problems arising in other programs under his cognizance. In actuality, this new program, Program 241, will pick up the CORONA program, now under SAFSP rather than SSD.
4. Program 162 will be terminated with the last flight in about April. Residual hardware will be transferred to the high priority Program 241. Col. Worthington will stay with #162 for normal termination activities. As available and needed, personnel will be transferred to Program 241 from 162. Col. Worthington will probably be reassigned to Vandenberg. Capt. Johnson is to go to staff school; [redacted] will be transferred to Program 241 under Col. Paul Heran, essentially maintaining his present duties. Col. Heran was Gen. Greer's project officer for the now defunct E-6 Program.

Handle via BYEMAN
Control System~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

BYE-2464-64

5. By June, the total direction of the effort will have been transferred from Col. Worthington to Col. Heran. Concurrently, formal responsibility will have shifted from Gen. Funk to Gen. Greer. Contractors have been alerted to the changes; appropriate cover stories are being generated and disseminated.

6. The apparent, overall effect of this reorganization is to formalize and solidify the current role of Gen. Greer in directing CORONA as part of NRO, Program A.

Jack C. Ledford
JACK C. LEDFORD
COLONEL, USAF
Assistant Director

cc: SAS/S&T

~~TOP SECRET~~