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Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Dear Cy:

I am pleased that your memorandum of 15 October concerning the CORONA Program is in general accord with my proposal to consolidate the entire CORONA Program under General Greer's over-all management. I do find several comments in your memorandum which manifest a possible misunderstanding of exactly what I felt Mr. Crowley's role, and hence the Agency's role, should be in the CORONA Program.

As I suggested in my 6 October memorandum, and as was illustrated in its attachment, Mr. Crowley, operating under the general management and direction of General Greer, would be responsible for the technical direction of the payload contractors. My desire that Aerospace recognize Mr. Crowley's role in the payload area was to permit Mr. Crowley to call upon Aerospace for whatever assistance he may require in carrying out the approved changes in the program.

Since CORONA is an ongoing operational program whose primary mission is photographic, it would seem appropriate if Mr. Crowley, as technical director of the payload, were established as Chairman of the CORONA Advisory Committee. Other membership could be drawn, as you suggested, from the NRO Staff, NPIC, etc.

Also under Mr. Crowley would be the Palo Alto facility for the assembly, integration, and checkout of the payload system. Although the technical functions conducted by the Agency at Palo Alto would be an extension of Mr. Crowley's direction, I see no reason, at

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this time, to disturb the mechanism for operational support which that facility provides to the NRO Satellite Operations Center during CORONA on-orbit operations.

As I have suggested previously, I look upon General Greer in his general management and direction of the CORONA Program to have two deputies, so to speak, one Mr. Crowley, responsible for the payload; the other Colonel Heran, responsible for the booster, launch and tracking operations, and recovery efforts.

I believe that we are moving in the proper direction and have asked General Carter, upon returning from his Far East trip, to introduce Mr. Crowley to General Greer.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone
Director

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