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BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~SI~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

January 8, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of 12-inch Stellar Index
CameraPROBLEM

The current scheduled date for the launch of the first 12-inch Stellar Index Camera is February 1972. This is approximately nine months later than the planned date at the time of the Horowitz Study which is the basis of Mr. Nitze's approval of the 12-inch system.

BACKGROUND

The Assistant Director of DIA for Mapping and Charting has requested that General Carroll reopen the 12-inch SI camera issue with the Deputy Secretary of Defense in an attempt to roll back the operational availability of the 12-inch SI to the spring of 1971. The basis for this action by the Assistant Director for Mapping and Charting is our memo which specified a planned launch date in the 3rd Quarter of FY-72 for first 12-inch system (Tab A).

General Carroll has taken the position that he will not request the Deputy Secretary of Defense to direct a change in the availability of the 12-inch SI if such a change has a major impact on the HEXAGON program (Tab B). As General Carroll points out in his memo, the other alternative is to reprogram within DIA and to adjust DIA schedules to meet the current estimated availability for the 12-inch system.

DISCUSSION

The attached memo for your signature indicates that a change in the operational availability of the 12-inch system will have a major impact on the HEXAGON program and it could increase FY-69 and FY-70 funding by 10 to 20 million dollars. The letter also points out that it may be possible to reverse

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the launch schedule for Vehicle 6 and Vehicle 7, thereby gaining three months in the operational availability of the 12-inch system without major impact on the program.

RECOMMENDATION

That the attached memorandum for General Carroll be signed.

William E. Williamson
WILLIAM E. WILLIAMSON
Lt Colonel, USA

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301



MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

7 FEB 1969

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of the 12" Stellar Index Camera of the HEXAGON System

1. References:

- a. DIA letter to NRO of 28 December 1968, subject as above.
- b. NRO letter to DIA of 16 January 1969, subject as above, replying to a. above.

2. In regard to minimizing the delay beyond Spring 1971 for the first 12" SI system in the KH-9 system, it is clear from your comments in reference b. that the problems of overcoming a delay of six months are prohibitive.

3. Because of the extensive MC&G programming adjustments already made and the expected important improvements identified with the KH-9 12" SI data as detailed in reference a., DIA concludes that every reasonable step should be taken to avoid a delay beyond six months.

4. In keeping with the action you mentioned in reference b., it is urgently requested that NRO explore fully the possibility of interchanging vehicles six and seven or any other means to accomplish the first mission earlier than third quarter 1972. Your prompt handling will be appreciated because of current DIA actions in the CIP.

Joseph F. Carroll

JOSEPH F. CARROLL
Lieutenant Colonel, USAF
Director

REF ID: A661-69

GROUP 1: Excluded from Automatic Downgrading and Declassification

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

14 February 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of the 12 Inch SI Camera

PROBLEM


General Carroll has accepted your offer to investigate the feasibility of interchanging the HEXAGON launch schedule of Vehicle #7 and Vehicle #6 in order to gain three months on availability of the first SI coverage. (TAB A)

DISCUSSION

In your letter to General Carroll of 16 January 1969, (TAB B) we indicated that it may be possible to launch Vehicle #7 three months early by interchanging the present launch schedule of Vehicle #6 and Vehicle #7. General Carroll is now asking that we fully explore this possibility and requests an early commitment from the NRO on this matter in order to finalize current actions in the CIP. I have talked to the Program Office and they still indicate that the switch in schedule of Vehicles #6 and 7 is feasible and that they can furnish you with detailed analysis and costing on this course of action by 3 March 1969.

RECOMMENDATION

1. Recommend that the attached memorandum to General Carroll informing him that he may expect final analysis and commitment on finalizing the schedule change of Vehicles #6 and 7 by early March, be signed.
2. That the wire to General Martin requesting his analysis of the proposed HEXAGON schedule change and costing by 3 March 1969, be signed.


WILLIAM E. WILLIAMSON
LtColonel, U.S.A.HANDLE VIA
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10 Feb 69

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

January 16, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of the 12-inch Stellar
Index Camera of the HEXAGON System

This is in response to your memorandum of December 28, 1968, on the subject of the operational availability of the 12-inch Stellar Index Camera. The development and procurement contracts for the 12-inch Stellar Index Camera are incentive type contracts which have been negotiated on the basis of compatibility with vehicle number seven. This was done in order to achieve a low risk development program for the 12-inch SI with adequate testing and qualification of all components prior to first flight.

A realignment of the SI development and procurement schedule for an operational date prior to vehicle number seven at this time would necessitate an accelerated development program involving production of flight hardware prior to completion of design reviews and qualification testing. This would eliminate the performance incentive now in the contract and would change the character of this development from a low risk item to a high risk item.

The advance of the incorporation of the 12-inch SI into the HEXAGON system by nine months would impact the satellite basic assembly test and qualification schedule which is presently critical. This would, in all probability, significantly delay the first launch of the HEXAGON system.

Detailed cost studies associated with an accelerated SI development program are not available; however, the program office estimates that the cost increase would be on the order of fifteen million dollars and would have to be absorbed in FY-69 and FY-70.

The present HEXAGON launch schedule of four missions per year plans for vehicle number seven to be launched in February 1972. Vehicle number seven is also the scheduled back-up

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for vehicle number six. It is possible that the launch of vehicle number seven could be advanced three months by launching vehicle seven and then vehicle six. This would not have a serious impact on the HEXAGON program, but it would place a six-month delay between coverage by the first SI unit and the second SI unit which will be on vehicle number eight. We would appreciate your views as to the desirability of adopting this approach. If you deem it to be worthwhile to seek this three month reduction in the schedule for the first flight of the SI unit, we will explore this possibility in greater detail.

Alexander H. Flax

Alexander H. Flax

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Originator: LtCol Williamson

Date: 14 Feb 69

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Precedence

Addressee(s)

PRIORITY

Action: CHARGE

Info:

WHIG

HEXAGON

FOR GENERAL MARTIN FROM DR. FLAX

DIA HAS EXPRESSED A DESIRE TO ADVANCE THE AVAILABILITY DATE OF THE FIRST HEXAGON 12 INCH SI CAMERA COVERAGE BY INTERCHANGING THE LAUNCH SCHEDULE FOR VEHICLE #6 AND #7. DIA FULLY UNDERSTANDS THAT THIS ACTION, WHILE ADVANCING THE AVAILABILITY OF INITIAL 12 INCH SI COVERAGE BY THREE MONTHS, WILL MEAN A SIX-MONTH PERIOD BETWEEN THIS FIRST COVERAGE AND SUBSEQUENT COVERAGE WHICH WOULD START WITH VEHICLE #8.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT VEHICLE #7 IS SCHEDULED AS BACKUP TO VEHICLE #6 AND THEREFORE IT MAY BE FEASIBLE TO LAUNCH VEHICLE #7 IN PLACE OF #6, AND THEN VEHICLE #6, WITHOUT SERIOUS IMPACT ON THE PROGRAM, OR INCURRING SUBSTANTIAL COST INCREASES. I WOULD LIKE YOUR DETAILED ANALYSIS ON THE IMPACT AND COST OF THIS PROPOSED SCHEDULE CHANGE FOR THE HEXAGON PROGRAM BY 3 MARCH 1969.

Coordination

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of the 12 Inch
Stellar Index Camera of the HEXAGON System

This is in response to your memorandum of February 7, 1969, regarding the advancement of the first launch of the 12 Inch Stellar Index Camera from the third quarter of FY-1972 by interchanging the launch dates of Vehicles six and seven.

I have instructed the HEXAGON Program Office to investigate in detail the implications of interchanging the scheduled launch of Vehicles six and seven. This analysis is to be completed by March 3, 1969 and you may, therefore, expect a final analysis and commitment on this action in early March.

Alexander H. Flax

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 20, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Operational Availability of the 12 Inch
Stellar Index Camera of the HEXAGON System

This is in response to your memorandum of February 7, 1969, regarding the advancement of the first launch of the 12 Inch Stellar Index Camera from the third quarter of FY-1972 by interchanging the launch dates of Vehicles six and seven.

I have instructed the HEXAGON Program Office to investigate in detail the implications of interchanging the scheduled launch of Vehicles six and seven. This analysis is to be completed by March 3, 1969 and you may, therefore, expect a final analysis and commitment on this action in early March.

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