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OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

September 29, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR Deputy Director, Science & Technology, CIA

At a meeting on 11 August, the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence agreed that, in addition to preliminary design on the FULCRUM camera, and design and test of the film transport system, a contractor should be engaged to conduct a comprehensive systems design study centered on the FULCRUM concept.

Your message ADIC 4436 reports that funded competitions are under way to select contractors to study new spacecraft and re-entry vehicles for FULCRUM. Your transmittal of 10 September 1964, BYE 0253-64, with its attachments, describes the manner in which this competition is being conducted, and indicates your intention to contract thereafter for separate design studies on spacecraft and re-entry vehicle.

The funded competition which you have now instituted, and the proposed manner of continuing separate studies thereafter, appear both premature and not in conformance with the agreements reached on 11 August. The spacecraft and RV competitions are premature in that no understanding has been reached on general system requirements and characteristics. Further, on 11 August, it was understood that a single contractor would be selected competitively to conduct a systems design study and that ~~(S)~~ DNRO would approve the Work Statements beforehand.

I, therefore, cannot agree in the course of action you have taken. I request that, upon receipt of initial contractor responses to the referenced RFP's, further efforts should be suspended, pending discussion of this matter at a meeting of the ~~(S)~~ NRO Executive Committee.

FULCRUM

Brockway McMillan
Brockway McMillan
Director

~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office

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