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GAMBIT HEXAGON CORONA



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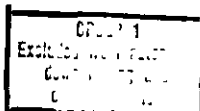
12 NOV 1966

**MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence**

**SUBJECT : Key Events in the Chronology  
of the FULCRUM/HEXAGON  
Program with Itak Corporation**

1. This memorandum is for your information only.
2. February 1964 - CIA undertakes study effort with Itak to determine feasibility of various sensor systems in satellites.
3. May 1964 - CIA and Itak independently conclude that intelligence needs require CORONA-type search system with G/MBIT resolution. Itak proposes three camera designs, all including 120° scan angle. CIA agree that twin 60" F/3 camera design most desirable.
4. June 1964 - Land Panel reviews FULCRUM concept; recommends program to prove technical feasibility. DCI approves.
5. June 1964 - DCI directs competitive study effort undertaken at Perkin-Elmer.
6. August 1964 - CIA receives informal word that Brockway MacMillan, DMRO, has started competitive efforts to FULCRUM in behalf of the Air Force at Eastman-Kodak, Fairchild, and also Itak. He also attempted to conduct effort at Perkin-Elmer; however, Perkin-Elmer refused stating they were presently under contract to CIA for similar type design.
7. January 1965 - Briefing at Itak to Mr. McCone, Dr. Land, and DoD personalities. Lindsay advises Mr. McCone

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 HEXAGON Program with Itek Corporation**

privately that Itek held NRO contract for a new search and surveillance system other than FULCRUM. During course of briefing, Mr. McCone pressed Lindsay and other Itek officials as to whether or not FULCRUM represented Itek's most advanced thinking on a search system. Lindsay and staff, after some parrying, affirm their belief that FULCRUM was the final word.

8. 23 February 1965 - Land Panel hears presentations from CIA Itek camera design and competitive Air Force Eastman-Kodak and Itek designs. At the conclusion of the presentations when the Land Panel was in executive session, Itek officials informed Dr. Land that Itek was withdrawing from the FULCRUM Program.

9. Variety of accusations which followed on part of Itek were concluded by Bross/Blake investigations to be merely poor judgment on part of Itek.

10. March 1965 - Itek FULCRUM design transferred to Perkin-Elmer, and Perkin-Elmer states they can build FULCRUM system with some modifications.

11. July 1965 - Dr. MacMillan advises Vance and McCone that Eastman-Kodak has been selected for new satellite search and surveillance system. CIA challenges decision.

12. August 1965 - Land Panel recommends continued study effort with competitive camera systems.

13. September 1965 - Eastman-Kodak selected for MOL Program, ordered to transfer design and equipment for new search system to Itek.

14. October 1965 - Flax replaces MacMillan as DNRO.

15. May 1966 - CIA assumes contract responsibility for all search and surveillance sensor systems. RFP's issued for

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competitive proposals from Perkin-Elmer and Itak who was to bid on its Air Force design plus Eastman-Kodak's design.

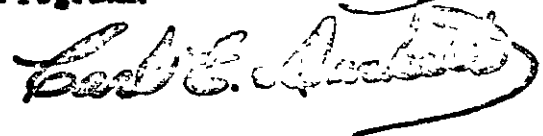
16. July 1966 - Proposals received from contractors. Itak bids only on its own design, drops Eastman-Kodak's.

17. August - September 1966 - Proposals evaluated. Source Selection recommendations presented to Dr. Flax.

18. October 1966 - Flax awards contract to Perkin-Elmer.

19. Of particular interest is fact that during summer of 1966, CIA learned that MacMillan had actually let a contract with Eastman-Kodak for the new search and surveillance system on 22 February 1965, the day before the Land Panel met. During the first part of October 1966, Mr. John Crowley and Mr. Leslie Dirks of CIA, in conversation with Itak officials, learned from Mr. Walt Levison that MacMillan had advised Mr. Lindsay that Itak had lost the competition on 22 February 1965, the day before the Land Panel and the day before Itak withdrew from the FULCRUM Program.

*And that Itak was awarded an engineering model contract at the same time*



**CARL E. DUCKETT**  
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for  
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