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20 July 1964
Section 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology
SUBJECT: CORONA Operations Officer; Palo Alto, California

1. This memorandum contains a recommendation for the approval of the Deputy Director for Science and Technology. Such recommendation is contained in paragraph 5.

2. Colonel Charles L. Murphy, who is the CORONA Operations Officer at Palo Alto, California, is returning to the Air Force about the end of July 1964.

3. Colonel Murphy's departure will create a critical void and corresponding opportunity for General Greer's staff to usurp this function and responsibility unless we act to fill this position.

4. The basic function of this position is to insure that several aspects of the work accomplished in the Advanced Projects area at Palo Alto meet the requirements of the NRO in general and the CIA in particular. This officer is charged with performing the interface function between technical and operational sections of the CORONA program to insure that our requirements are designed into the systems and are fully operating during the mission. Additionally, he assumes complete responsibility for on-orbit control of the payload and maintains an up-to-date status of payload and vehicle on-orbit data. All on-orbit decisions concerning payload are made by this individual; he is also responsible for insuring that no vehicle decision is made that adversely affects primary mission.

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Other portions of his job are day-to-day liaison with contractors, supervision of the security function, observation of the contractors efforts in system acceptance, manufacturing and checkout, and maintenance of a secure communications network.

5. It is my recommendation that Lt. Col. Vernard H. Webb, presently Colonel Murphy's deputy, assume Colonel Murphy's responsibilities. Colonel Webb has been in the deputy position for two years and is, I feel, well qualified to assume this post. For the position of the deputy, we visualize filling this job with a civilian who has had a basic background in space system operation, with mathematics and programming training. The file of such an individual is currently being studied by members of CSA.

JACK G. BEDFORD
Colonel USAF
Assistant Director
(Special Activities)

The recommendation contained in paragraph 5 is approved:

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Deputy Director for Science and Technology

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