

Memo For Record

Subject Discoverer

17 April 1959

1 A briefing was presented to the following officers
by Col Harry Evans on this date:

Maj Gen Estlin

Col G.C. Andrews

Maj Gen Preston

Col Leo P. Heary

Maj Gen Watson

W/Col F.L. Dillon

Br/Gen Boushey

W/Col R.D. Kemp

Col Gen Greer

Maj Donald Floyd

Mr. L.C. Meyer

2 Col Evans covered the background of the
Discoverer program which included the
authorization for 19 Thor 117L packages.

This was subsequently reduced to 13 Thors
to include 3 bio-medical payloads, two
engineering tests and 8 Corona payloads.

The CIA would procure the Corona payloads
through White House approval and weather and
process the outputs of the 8 shots.

3 With the proposed addition it would
allow for a total of 17 shots in CY 59,
with the remainder in CY 60. The addition

would include 12 shots of the same type of package as the original Corona. This would total out at 25. BMD has authority to procure 19 Thor-117L ^{systems} and requires authority for 6 additional Thor-117L low payload.

4. BMD requires a cover plan for the additional 12 shots and desires that this be brought to the attention of the people preparing the Sentry cover plan.

5. Discussion started on the possible use of the last four shots for Discoverer 13A. The Arpa-Army mapping and charting satellite. Nothing firm on this as it is more or less a rumor stage. As a result of this discussion Gen. Boushey asked Intelligence to substantiate their claim by more facts regarding their position in a memo to ARPA that more target information is required instead of mapping as the present mapping and charting data is sufficient for the time being in view of the CEP errors of the existing missiles. Such a paper will be prepared by Intelligence.

6. The advisability of the Air Force taking over the program from Corona shot #9 was discussed. Gen Watson would prefer the Air Force to handle the operation, weather data, White House approval, output from Corona, and ground processing equipment.

7. As it was rumored that the President had made a decision on the follow on program it was agreed to investigate Gen Watson's position after the approval paper was received.