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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.



24 November 1958

SUBJECT: Project CORONA (S).

TO: Commander
Air Research & Development Command
Andrews Air Force Base, D. C.

1. This letter transmits information relating to Project CORONA which may be helpful to you in accomplishing the actions requested in my letter of 19 November, subject as above.

2. A meeting was held in this office, this date, with Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr of CIA during which the following occurred:

a. Mr. Bissell reaffirmed CIA's responsibilities for Project CORONA to be:

- (1) Over-all security.
- (2) Covert procurement.
- (3) The preliminary physical processing of the product. (This is considered to be essential not only for security reasons but to utilize the specialized processing equipments and techniques which the agency has effected through Eastman Kodak.)

b. Mr. Bissell made reference to a memorandum which was written late last year or early this year which specified, among other things, CIA's role in Project CORONA, the fact that BMD would be the agency responsible for research and development, integration, procurement, operation of the system, and established CIA-BMD relationships. A copy of this memorandum will be furnished this office and forwarded to you upon receipt.

c. Mr. Bissell read my letter to you of 19 November, concurred in the objectives sought therein, and agreed to work with your representatives in furtherance of these objectives. He expressed the hope, however, that CIA's role in this particular activity and others of a

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Ltr to Comdr ARDC, Subj: "Project CORONA (S)," dtd 24 Nov 58

similar nature would be progressively reduced and eventually be limited to the receipt of the operational product as one of our customers. We should help in achieving this.

d. In order to obtain maximum benefit from the product of CORONA and subsequent systems, specialized equipments will be required. Much of this equipment can be procured off the shelf. Other equipment may have to be developed. The character and amount of equipment required and the skills and numbers of people required to operate it should be determined as early as practicable. With this in mind, the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence will be read into Project CORONA and will work with CIA on this matter. Major General James H. Walsh therefore should be included as one of the persons in this headquarters with whom representatives of your command may discuss CORONA. Your assessment of this project should include inquiry as to adequacy of preparations to exploit fully the product.

3. Attached hereto as Inclosure 1 is a copy of a memorandum from Undersecretary MacIntyre to the Director of ARPA, dtd 17 Nov 58, Subj: "FY '59 117L Program."

4. Attached as Inclosure 2 is a draft reply to Inclosure 1 which was furnished this headquarters for review as to adequacy prior to signature and dispatch. This headquarters proposes to concur in the attached memorandum with a request that agreements on funding referred to in the fourth paragraph of the proposed memorandum be promptly resolved.

5. Attached as Inclosure 3 is a proposed memorandum to the Secretary of the Air Force, Subj: "Public Information - Project DISCOVERY," with two attachments. This memorandum was referred to the Air Force for review as to adequacy prior to dispatch. This memorandum and attachments thereto are currently being reviewed along with efforts to develop public relations policy guidance for Vandenberg AFB. USAF reaction to the proposed memorandum and attachments will be communicated to ARPA subsequent to 26 November. If you desire to comment upon either of these matters, your thoughts will be appreciated.

3 Incls
As stated

James H. Walsh

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