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27 July 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Proposed MOL Press Release

In response to a request from Dr. Hall, Mr. Friedman reviewed the attached press release last evening. He asked me to prepare his comments and deliver them to Dr. Hall for him. I did so this morning at 1030 hours.

Atch

lv.
PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

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27 July 1965

Comments on Proposed MOL Press Release

Mr. Friedman:

1. \$150 million is mentioned twice - page 1, line 15 and page 2, 18. The second reference should be consolidated with the first.
2. Is it wise to advertise \$1.5 billion as the total cost? What is the gain?
3. Does this paper have ASD/ISA coordination?

Colonel Worthman:

Nothing to add to the above.

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PROPOSED RELEASE

Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara announced today that he had directed the Air Force to proceed with the contract definition phase of a Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) research and development program. _____ and _____ were selected to form a team to accomplish Phase I work on the laboratory module.

The MOL project was initiated in December 1963 when the DYNA SOAR, a project dating from the 1950's, was cancelled. At that time it was concluded that the principal DOD effort in manned orbiting vehicles should go to determining man's capabilities and developing the appropriate technology for man to exercise those capabilities rather than to continue to place principal emphasis on maneuverable reentry. Subsequent study, concept evaluation, and preliminary development have confirmed that conclusion. \$30 million was committed in FY 1965, and \$150 million in the FY 1966 budget.

During this next phase of the program, contract definition and engineering data for the module will be developed based on the TITAN IIC-GEMINI B configuration. Contract definition work also will begin on booster integration and on the adaptation of the GEMINI spacecraft for MOL.

The project definition phase should be completed in about six months. At this time, work could begin on fabrication of the hardware for the MOL program.

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The primary objectives of the program are to:

1. Develop technology contributing to improved military capability for manned and unmanned space operation.
2. Conduct experimentation with the apparatus so developed.
3. Carry out experiments to determine man's utility in space for military purposes.

There will be six launches in the basic MOL development program, five of which will be made by two-man crews. The first manned launch is planned for late 1968.

Prior to this there will be unmanned launches. The first of these to qualify subsystems and to obtain early information on structures and environment is planned for late 1966 or early 1967.

Astronaut candidates will be military test pilots and graduates of the Aerospace Research Pilot School at Edwards AFB, California.

Cooperative studies by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and DOD will determine which scientific or general technological experiments are carried out in the MOL.

The FY 1966 budget contains \$150 million for MOL. Total cost of the program is estimated at about \$1.5 billion.

The decision to proceed with the program using the TITAN IIC - GEMINI B configuration was based on comprehensive studies of several

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configurations. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration cooperated with the Department of Defense in providing possible NASA vehicle configurations suitable for the military requirements of the program.

_____ and _____
were chosen from the four contractors who conducted preliminary design studies earlier this year. The other two were _____
and _____.

The Martin Company is the integrating contractor for the TITANIC booster and United Technology Center is the associate contractor responsible for the solid rocket motors. McDonnell Aircraft Corporation produces the GEMINI spacecraft. Aerospace Corporation provides system engineering and technical direction for the Air Force.

- End -

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