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27 July 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: MOL Policy Questions

Yesterday, Dr. Hall asked Mr. Friedman to reply to three MOL policy questions (see Atch No. 1). I prepared a draft; Mr. Friedman reviewed it last evening and final copy was delivered to Colonel Battle at 1845 hours (see Atch No. 2).

This morning, Colonel Battle stated he couldn't use our answers. We had prepared them for a Space Council audience (they are Secret); actually, he had a press audience in mind. Would we rewrite them? We did (see Atch No. 3).

3 Atchs
a/s


PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

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UNCLASSIFIED WHEN ATCH 2
IS WITHDRAWN.

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Questions for ISA

1. Since the peaceful nature of the manned space program has been continually emphasized, would you not expect that the initiation of a manned military program would be regarded as a change in national policy with regard to space?

#12 2. If the purpose of MOL is for experiments, why cannot the orbits available from launches at Cape Kennedy be employed for these experiments?

3. In view of the military security covering the MOL program, what steps, if any, do you plan to take to assure the international community that there is not a hidden aggressive intent in the initiation and development of this program?

Attack No 1

26 July 65

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QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS
(ISA)

1. Since the peaceful nature of the manned space program has been continually emphasized, would you not expect that the initiation of a manned military program would be regarded as a change in national policy with regard to space?

The introduction of a man into an established and well-known military space program should not indicate, as such, a significant change in the nature of this nation's overall space program, or be regarded as a change in national policy. It could always be pointed out that substantial military activities could be conducted by the U. S. without introducing a man into its space program.

Apart from these considerations, and in order to assure a minimum international impact, the MOL will be operated within the guidelines of existing national policy and within the carefully-ordered security environment which already exists for military space programs. A firm position will be maintained on several points:

- a. The public information programs associated with MOL will be kept modest, low-key and carefully planned.
- b. The publicly announced mission of MOL will continue to be expressed solely as "the investigation and development of manned orbital capabilities essential to the national defense."
- c. The U. S. will be prepared to re-affirm its abhorrence of orbiting weapons and advise that no U. S. satellite--operational or developmental--carries weapons of any kind.
- d. The tight security surrounding MOL's mission capability will persist regardless of comments and speculation, however accurate or inaccurate.

Within this environment, MOL can proceed effectively without providing the implication of a change in national policy with regard to space.

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Attch No 2

2. If the purpose of MOL is for experiments, why cannot the orbits available from launches at Cape Kennedy be employed for these experiments?

We anticipate launching from both coasts. Current planning calls for two initial MOL program launchings from Cape Kennedy. These launchings have the objective of component qualification for the MOL system. The basic MOL developmental program launchings will be made from the Western Test Range into near-polar orbits. Orbits of such inclination enable us to collect flight data from all space regions -- north and south as well as east and west. Representative of the types of data to be collected are: radiation measurements, communication phenomena, meteorological data, micrometeorite density measurements, etc.

The collection of these data requires the use of orbits that cover the entire earth.

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3. In view of the military security covering the MOL program, what steps, if any, do you plan to take to assure the international community that there is not a hidden aggressive intent in the initiation and development of this program?

Secrecy does not mean illegality or aggressiveness. The practice of conducting legal, secret operations in international waters and air space is well established. There is no reason for the U. S. to assume the lack of disclosure of details, timing, and results to be taken as indication of aggressiveness. The fact that these details are not disclosed becomes relevant only as the U. S. allows it to become relevant (for example, by reacting defensively to criticism in this regard). Moreover, as already indicated in the MOL Policy Paper, the U. S. will be prepared to re-affirm its abhorrence of orbiting weapons and to advise that no U. S. satellite carries weapons of any kind. We do not believe any further actions will be required.

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27 July 65-

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR
MOL PUBLIC INFORMATION
(ISA)

1. Since the peaceful nature of the manned space program has been continually emphasized, would you not expect that the initiation of a manned military program would be regarded as a change in national policy with regard to space?

The introduction of a man into an established and well known Department of Defense space program does not indicate, as such, a significant change in the nature of the nation's overall space program. The purpose of MOL is the investigation and development of manned orbital capabilities essential to the national defense. It should be noted that MOL is a laboratory: it "investigates" and "develops." The same has been true of a number of DOD space projects; whether they are manned or unmanned is not as important as the fact that they are all in the mainstream of a continuing U. S. military space program.

-Attach No 3

2. If the purpose of MOL is for experiments, why cannot the orbits available from launches at Cape Kennedy be employed for these experiments?

We anticipate launching from both coasts. Current planning calls for two initial MOL program launchings from Cape Kennedy. These launchings have the objective of component qualification for the MOL system. The basic MOL developmental program launchings will be made from the Western Test Range into near-polar orbits. Orbits of such inclination enable us to collect flight data from all space regions -- north and south as well as east and west. Representative of the types of data to be collected are: radiation measurements, communication phenomena, meteorological data, micrometeorite density measurements, etc. The collection of these data requires the use of orbits that cover the entire earth.

3. In view of the military security covering the MOL program, what steps, if any, do you plan to take to assure the international community that there is not a hidden aggressive intent in the initiation and development of this program?

On October 17, 1963, the United States government joined the United Nations General Assembly in adopting by acclamation a resolution calling upon all States "to refrain from placing in orbit around the earth any objects carrying nuclear weapons or any other kinds of weapons of mass destruction, installing such weapons on celestial bodies, or stationing such weapons in outer space in any manner." The international community should continue in its assurance that the United States has no plan to deviate from this position which it supported strongly for many years before its U. N. adoption and which it considers to be a milestone in progress toward peace. No further assurance should be necessary.