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MAR 10 1964

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MOL Program

Major General Ben L. Funk
Commander
Space Systems Division
Air Force Unit Post Office
Los Angeles 45, California

1. Reference our Secret TWX MSF 9-3-13 dated 9 March 1964 to you establishing the requirement and guidelines for a Preliminary Technical Development Plan for the MOL Program. This letter supplements the referenced TWX and defines certain additional actions which are required.

2. We have been informed that if the MOL experiments demonstrate satisfactorily that man is able, with appropriate aids, to point an instrument with accuracy better than 1/2 mile, and to correct image motion to better than 0.2 percent, it will be important to compare carefully the potential cost and performance of manned and unmanned very high resolution systems. This will be done within the (S) NRO, and studies are now underway to this end. These studies will continue and will be kept current with the MOL Program. The objective is to insure that at such time as the evidence from MOL experiments warrants the decision, the basis for timely development of a manned reconnaissance system will be at hand.

3. It is important that planning to support this objective be initiated without delay. Furthermore, the results of the initial planning should be made available to the Director, (S) NRO and the Secretary of Defense at the same time as the Preliminary Technical Development Plan. This will assure that all available facts to support a decision to proceed with Phase I of the MOL Program are at hand.

4. Therefore, a separate appropriately classified document which supplements the Preliminary Technical Development Plan must be prepared. This document should define the studies underway and planned and the results to date. It should also include the initial planning for specific experiments. For example, it has been indicated that photography

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of quality approaching that needed for reconnaissance may be undertaken on some orbital flights. The camera now held under special security which may be made available for this purpose is an existing experimental f/16 camera of [redacted] focal length. In addition, consideration will be given to testing a side looking radar now being developed under special classification on orbital flights late in the program. Finally, a proposed interface and arrangements for necessary interchange of information between the S&D MOL Program Office and the ~~(S)~~ NRO should be defined. Request you work directly with General Greer or his designee in preparing this document.

5. The fact that the MOL Program may include a bona fide reconnaissance capability and that studies and actions to this end are underway or contemplated is extremely sensitive. Accordingly, all such activities and information have been assigned a code word category within the BYEMAN system and will be handled exclusively within ~~(S)~~ NRO channels. Particular care must be taken to assure that the Preliminary Technical Development Plan contains no reference of any kind to such actions, plans, or associated documents.

/s/ R. K. Jacobson, Col, USAF
for **B. A. SCHRIEVER**
General, USAF
Commander

Copy to: S&FSP (General Greer)

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