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MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARIAT RECORD

SUBJECT: Proceedings of Air Force MOL Policy Committee Meeting 65-3,
14 October 1965

1. The Committee met at 1405, General Blanchard in attendance as alternate to General McConnell. Because it was necessary for Secretary Brown to depart at 1500, the agenda was rearranged to present action items first.

2. MOL Crew Member Selection/Information Plan.

Major Loret reviewed the selection criteria used by the AFSC and Hq USAF selection boards and those additional security criteria prescribed by Dr. McMillan under USAFINTEL Regulation 201-1 and AFR 205-34, Ultra Sensitive Position Program. Presentation of background biographical data on the six Air Force and two Navy selectees was followed by presentation of the schedule of activity from the present requirement to assign the selectees to the program through the training program leading to first flight. The primary problem of whether or not the selection and assignment should be publicized was discussed in terms of possible courses of action and the advantages and disadvantages attendant to each option.

Although it was agreed that a no-release policy would better serve program security, the Committee acknowledged that news of the assignment was of such national interest that it would leak out anyway. On the basis that it would be preferable to preempt a leak and the resulting questions that would be generated, it was decided that USAF should propose to OSD that a low-key release be made from the MOL Systems Office, Los Angeles. Secretary Brown directed that a comprehensive plan to implement this decision be formulated and coordinated with appropriate DOD agencies before any release is made. In keeping with a low key policy, the Committee agreed that the MOL crew members should bear the title "MOL Aerospace Research Pilots."

3. MOL Advisory Committee.

Colonel Norman presented a review of previous actions taken to establish the MOL Advisory Committee and current status on proposed membership. He stated that Dr. Land and Dr. Purcell had indicated to the National Academy of Science their reluctance to participate on the basis of possible conflict of interest with their responsibilities as members of the President's Science Advisory Committee (PSAC).

Establishment of the MOL Advisory Committee was endorsed by all members of the MOL Policy Committee. Secretary Brown indicated his desire that, if at all possible, Dr. Land and/or Dr. Purcell should be made members. It was agreed that Dr. Flax, with General Schriever, would consult with Dr. Hornig, Director, Office of Science and Technology, in order to resolve the

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conflict of interest issue. Concerning the role of the Advisory Committee, the Secretary indicated that in the interest of cost effectiveness, scientific experiments should be accommodated by MOL insofar as is possible, consistent with achievement of primary MOL mission objectives.

4. MOL Flight Schedule.

Dr. Yarymovych discussed the possibility of slippage of the first manned flight (with operational HRO reconnaissance equipment on board) from late 1968, as announced by the President, until March 1969. The possibility of slippage was attributed to delay in obtaining program approval and possible delay in procuring long lead time items required for the HRO mission module. Proposed solutions were either to officially slip the launch date or to provide an alternate backup payload, the latter to be flown if necessary to meet the presently scheduled launch date.

The Committee agreed that if at all possible the launch date announced by the President should be made good, and that every attempt should be made to compress the MOL development schedule so as to permit demonstration of operational HRO reconnaissance equipment on the first flight. Although the Committee recognized that slippage might materialize downstream in the program, it was decided that no adjustment in the schedule should be made at this time. In order to provide an option, it was agreed that a backup, parallel effort should be initiated to provide an alternate experiments payload which could be available to make the late 1968 launch date. It was acknowledged by the Committee that an additional mission module may eventually have to be procured in pursuing the parallel effort. Secretary Brown directed that the necessary action be taken. He emphasized the requirement that the alternate payload be one which would make a material contribution to program objectives, as opposed to an indiscriminate payload which would merely serve to make the schedule good.

5. Prior to the 1505 departure of the Secretary, several other critical topics were raised for discussion:

a. Titan IIIC Strap-ons: The Secretary stated that in view of the success enjoyed with the 120-inch diameter solid propellant strap-on motors in the current Titan III program, he did not consider it advisable to contemplate possible use of alternate strap-ons for the MOL program. In passing, he further indicated he did not favor liquid propellant strap-ons for any Titan III application. He was assured by Dr. Flax and General Schriever that although proposals had been received from industry concerning use of alternate strap-on motors, there was no intent to use them for MOL application. They stated that the firm program plan is to use seven-segment 120-inch solids, which, accompanied by other performance improvements in the launch vehicle, would be adequate in meeting MOL payload requirements.

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b. Manned versus Unmanned Payload: The Secretary reiterated the PSAC requirement that the MOL be configured so as to provide quantitative data which could be used to determine whether manned or unmanned conduct of orbital HRO reconnaissance would be more cost effective. In addition, demonstration of the equipment in the unmanned mode would provide a backup capability for conduct of reconnaissance over Communist Bloc Territory if the international climate in the 1968-1970 time period were to be such that manned overflight would be precluded. The Secretary stated his commitment to PSAC to provide a plan leading to demonstration of an HRO reconnaissance capability in the unmanned mode within nine months of the first manned flight.

In view of these requirements, the Secretary wanted to be sure that the MOL program would provide the required data and the desired unmanned capability. Dr. Flax and General Schriever assured him that the program does provide for this requirement. The approach being taken was to optimize the HRO sensor with man in-the-loop, and then automate the functions necessary to permit unmanned operation at the best possible resolution. The Secretary agreed with this approach. The Secretary was further informed that the MOL Systems Office and the Director, Special Projects were currently working on the problems involved and that a recommended approach based on results of the current study effort were due in mid-December, 1965.

c. The Secretary voiced concern over the possibility that the separate "black" and "white" MOL contractual efforts could possibly result in unnecessary duplication in the area of software, TTC, computers, etc. He was informed that all RFP's, contracts, etc. had been reviewed to insure non-duplicative effort, and that the process of reviewing for duplication would continue. General Schriever pointed out that the associate contractor management structure, to be described in the presentation on MOL management structure, makes the possibility of duplicative effort highly unlikely.

d. With particular reference to management of "black" and "white" MOL funds, General Schriever voiced the requirement for a streamlined management arrangement above USAF level, with DDR&E as the preferred focal point for MOL. It was agreed that a paper should be prepared on this subject based on preliminary discussions to be held by Dr. Flax and General Schriever with Dr. Foster. Secretary Brown stated that after these preliminary discussions were completed, he would discuss the matter with the Secretary of Defense. With regard to Systems Analysis that might be performed at OSD level, presumably, by ASD (Systems Analysis), General Schriever stated his preference that such studies should be performed within the MOL program under ground rules specified by OSD. Secretary Brown stated that he would discuss this matter with Secretary McNamara also.

e. The Committee noted a requirement for strengthening of the Douglas Systems Engineering capability. General Schriever stated that the MOL

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Systems Office was aware of the problem and was taking the necessary action. The Committee agreed that this activity was properly a function of the MOL Systems Office.

6. Systems Status.

Colonel Randall presented a status report on key aspects of the program, including the following information: Eastman Kodak has been awarded a fixed price contract, with Douglas and General Electric to be on contract in a matter of days; the Contract Definition Phase was under way as of 1 October 1965, to last approximately seven months; the HSQ flight is to be conducted in October 1966 at ETR with consideration being given to a second HSQ flight if required; on contractor structure, all associates will be managed by the Deputy Director, MOL except the HRO sensor contractor who is under Director, Special Projects supervision; planned improvements to the Titan IIIC will provide the necessary performance to meet mission payload requirements in the required high inclination, higher than nominal IIIC altitude orbits; in presentation of Contract Definition Phase funding requirements, it was pointed out that all proposed GE funding was presently "black" money, making it difficult to make any public announcement of consummation of the GE contract.

7. Payloads Status.

Colonel Norman reviewed the status and plan of action being taken on HRO reconnaissance, SIGINT, and Ocean Surveillance missions, including the following highlights:

a. HRO Reconnaissance: A decision on whether to use an in-line configuration, utilizing a large flat tracking mirror, or a configuration in which the entire telescope is pointed and tracked, is anticipated to be made in mid-December.

b. SIGINT:

[REDACTED] in a manned MOL application. Present SIGINT activity is directed at the formulation of parametric design data to establish the feasibility of proposing a MOL COMINT mission.

c. Ocean Surveillance: Ocean Surveillance activity is presently directed at collecting data on key system elements, obtaining operating data on key components, and in developing some initial conclusions upon which to base a decision as to whether or not a manned approach to Ocean Surveillance using MOL should be pursued. One problem in the Ocean Surveillance area, not yet solved, is a determination of whether or not this effort, or portions thereof, should be "black" or "white." This decision will have a major impact on the Ocean Surveillance management and contractor structure, on contracting methods, contract management and funding arrangements.

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General Blanchard mentioned that a proposal by the Department of State to initiate an offer to the U.S.S.R. of pre-launch inspection of MOL on a reciprocal basis was recently considered by the JCS, but was rejected as contrary to national security. He did state that the Army and Navy were somewhat reluctant in their support of this position. As a related item, Dr. Flax stated that NASA was becoming more and more involved in high resolution optics in pursuance of its mission. The implication of this discussion was that events outside MOL might play an important role in determining whether the program would progress to fruition.

8. MOL Management Structure.

Colonel Randall presented a review of the responsibilities and inter-relationships of the associate contractor structure. General Schriever, as Director, MOL, stated that he was satisfied with the contractor management structure, as presented, with overall responsibility for contractor direction under the Deputy Director. Although a few matters still need to be worked out with Dr. Flax, he stated that the only remaining major management problem was the need for a MOL focal point within OSD.

9. The meeting adjourned at 1540.



HARRY L. EVANS
Brigadier General, USAF
Vice Director, MOL Program
Executive Secretary

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