

~~TOP SECRET~~

Policy: MOL  
Policy: 18 Points

October 23, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. SPURGEON KEENEY

SUBJECT: NSAM on MOL

Attached is a Top Secret version of a draft NSAM on the MOL. This would be in lieu of the TS and special system versions I sent you on September 20.

In accordance with your discussion with Colonel Sanders, the attached version draws from or quotes verbatim the 24 August 1965 McNamara memorandum to the President on the MOL.

I continue to hold the view that a NSAM on this subject would serve a useful purpose.

Alvin Friedman  
Deputy

Attachment  
as stated

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM No. \_\_\_\_\_

TO: The Chairman, National Aeronautics & Space Council  
The Secretary of State  
The Secretary of Defense  
The Director of the Budget  
The Director of Central Intelligence  
The Administrator, National Aeronautics & Space Administration  
The Director, U. S. Information Agency

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory

The Department of Defense's Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) will be developed and operated under the policy guidelines established in National Security Council Action 2454, and within the carefully-ordered security environment which already exists for military space programs. This environment helps to avoid provocation in the international arena and to forestall initiation of international action that might inhibit development of U.S. military space programs.

MOL is a logical element of a continuing military space program; it will be regarded as part of the mainstream of U.S. space activity and as such will require no more public justification than any other military space program.

The mission of MOL will be described publicly as the investigation and development of manned orbital capabilities essential to national defense. Public information on MOL will be planned carefully at a modest, low-key level. All public information releases or statements on MOL made by representatives of Executive Departments or Agencies, will be processed for approval through the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

In the event the MOL Program becomes involved in the production of any intelligence products or information, they will be controlled in the special security systems under the cognizance of the Director of Central Intelligence.

The United States will promote, within the established bounds of security, the free exchange of bona fide non-sensitive technical data accruing from MOL experiments.

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The United States Government will reaffirm, as necessary, its abhorrence of orbiting weapons and will advise, publicly and privately, that no U.S. satellite -- operational or developmental -- manned or unmanned -- carries weapons of any kind.

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