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25 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. REBER

SUBJECT: MOL Inspection Proposal

In SS-5, we tend to bury ourselves with individual projects for several weeks at a time. We are just now coming up for air on State's proposal to offer an initiative to the U. S. S. R. on pre-launching inspection of manned satellites. I feel this may be of general interest to you in that it is symptomatic of State's broader desire to unlock TKH; exemplifies the blandness with which State makes scandalous proposals; and offers an instructive inside look at the Department of Defense "at work."

9 Sep 65. State invites the usual "Ad Hoc Committee" addressees to a meeting. (Tab 1)

22 Sep 65. The meeting is held. The State proposal is so grotesque that there is no possibility of killing it.

27 Sep 65. Mr. Alvin Friedman (ISA Action Officer) asks me to help ISA prepare a draft position paper on the State proposal.

6 Oct 65. Mr. Garthoff (State) prepares a position paper on MOL inspection. This paper is as incredible as the proposal (and Garthoff is brilliant!). (Tab 2)

8 Oct 65. Mr. McNaughton (ASD/ISA) asks the Secretary of the Air Force and the Joint Chiefs of Staff to give their comments on the State proposal. (Tab 3)

8 Oct 65. We deliver a response for Mr. Friedman's consideration (Tab 4). The draft was a typical intra-DOD response: direct and opinionated.

12 Oct 65. General Wheeler (JCS) sends his comments on the State proposal to Mr. McNamara (Tab 5). He strongly recommends that State forget the whole thing.

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15 Oct 65. Dr. Brown comments on the State proposal to Mr. McNaughton. He recommends strong opposition to satellite pre-launching inspection. (Tab 6)

23 Oct 65. Mr. McNaughton sends a DOD position paper to Ambassador Thompson. The strategy: a soft reply; everything needs more careful consideration; perhaps idea is good in principle, but some real pitfalls. ISA hopes the wet noodle ploy will cool the whole idea. Heavy artillery later, if necessary (Tab 7). The technical attachment was prepared by Major Yost.

As you recognize, the key to this kind of activity is capturing the action, controlling all possible replies, and building on a technically (and morally) sound base. Quiggins, Yost, and I work very closely on this kind of problem: it's hard to tell where one man's effort stops and another starts.

Now you know what we do. I'd like to show you other examples as they develop. I have a hunch we could benefit from the advice of an experienced (ex-State) hand in the business.

PAUL E. WORTHMAN  
Colonel, USAF

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