

Policy: MOL  
STIC: MOL ✓

29 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL WORTHMAN

SUBJECT: P/A Guidance on MOL

Reference the attached proposed wire which we have been holding in suspense pending a Sylvester signature.

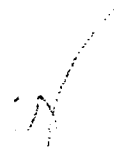
Called Colonel Mahoney at 0930 to check its status.

Colonel Mahoney advised that the wire, per se, is dead and that it will be replaced by a memorandum directed to the two departments concerned, to the Director, DR&E with info to a Sylvester level individual in USIA, State and NASA.

The memorandum has been through the loop in draft and essentially blessed for final. Very roughly it contains the following key items:

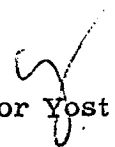
1. At this point in time no public information on the MOL program will be volunteered.
2. Certain releases will be promulgated at particular program milestones as they occur.
3. National level press queries will be referred to ASD(PA) for action.
4. Local queries may be answered with information officially released to date. Such material is chiefly confined to the aggregate of material provided through official channels subsequent to the President's announcement. As of this date, official releases include the DOD release dated 25 August 1960 and the Pentagon backgrounder on the same date.
5. Speeches and interviews on MOL will not be volunteered.
6. Speeches and interviews will be cleared with ASD(PA) prior to release.
7. An amplified information plan on the MOL program is in coordination.

Looks as though we really scored on this one. The guidance is very restrictive -- and very much in line with our suggestions. Colonel Mahoney will be in touch with us just as soon as this one is ready to go.



Major Yost

Note: Colonel Mahoney called at 0955 to ask that I hold on to the copy of the "dead" wire since Mr. Sylvester had just signed it. Colonel Mahoney has taken it from the message center until the confusion is resolved. He will let us know if the memorandum or both the wire and memorandum are dispatched.



Major Yost

25 Oct 65  
215

Colonel Worthman -

Have doctored it up -  
to include the remaining  
A/Q's.

Just called Col Mahoney's  
Office - the wire is  
still on Mr. Sylvester's  
desk awaiting signature.

Should I pass a  
copy to Mr. Mazza or  
hold until signed?

→  
7/15

Major Yost

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SPACE BELOW RESERVED FOR COMMUNICATION CENTER

PRECEDENCE	TYPE MSG (Check)			ACCOUNTING SYMBOL	ORIG. OR REFERS TO	CLASSIFICATION OF REFERENCE
ACTION PRIORITY	BOOK	MULTI <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SINGLE			
INFO						

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ TOREP NAM fr ASD(PA) sgd  
 Mr. Sylvester

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Policy Guidance for Manned Orbiting  
 Laboratory (MOL) Program.

DATE	TIME
22	1600
MONTH	YEAR
Oct	65

SYMBOL	OASD(PA)		
TYPED NAME AND TITLE (Signature, if required)	LtCol Daniel G. Mahoney, USAF		
PHONE	71311	PAGE NR.	1
NR. OF PAGES			
SECURITY CLASSIFICATION	<del>CONFIDENTIAL</del>		

SIGNATURE			
TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE	Arthur Sylvester Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs)		

FROM:

SECDEF

Public release of information concerning the Department of Defense Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program is not desired, and should not be made without specific authorization from OASD(PA).

Speeches: Public addresses that include comments concerning the MOL program will not be made without specific authorization by OASD(PA).

The text of comments by the President, Secretary of Defense, Secretary of the Air Force, and other key officials that have been furnished as background material should not be used in speeches, with or without attribution, unless approved by this office including the speaker, time, and place of release.

Proposed News Releases: Releases concerning the MOL program will be submitted through channels to OASD(PA) for approval.

Security Review: Information concerning the MOL program should be forwarded through Security Review channels as early as practicable in order to permit the extensive interagency coordination that is necessary.

Information Plan: A plan is being developed to cover the MOL program. Pending receipt of additional guidance all news

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SECDEF

queries regarding MOL program milestones that cannot be answered from information contained in the following questions and answers will be referred to OASD(PA).

Q. What is the MOL project?

A. A manned space flight project, of a research and experimental nature, which will put two men into space for periods of up to 30 days, in a "shirt-sleeves" environment, with the object of finding out more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability might be related to defense purposes. Five such manned launches are presently planned, starting in 1968. MOL experimentation will run into the 1970's.

Q. Who will carry out the project?

A. The U.S. Air Force, under the direction of the Department of Defense. The Douglas Aircraft Company and the General Electric Company will build the spacecraft and plan and develop the experiments respectively. MOL flights will be directed by the Air Force Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, California. We anticipate that MOL launches will be carried out from both the East and West Coast.

Q. What kind of experiments will be conducted?

A. The project directors will be considering for some time yet what defense-related experiments would seem to offer

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the most promise, but there is interest by the Air Force in building and assembling large antennae for communications purposes, and by the Navy in experiments of potential usefulness in antisubmarine warfare. The Army has not as yet recommended any experiments. Other representative examples of defense research that might be carried out would be experiments dealing with space structures technology, guidance and navigation, and extra-vehicular activity and equipment. In addition to defense related experiments, scientific experiments devised by NASA may be included.

Q. What is the relationship between MOL and nuclear weapons in space?

A. There is no relationship whatever. The MOL is a military program which is peaceful --- i. e. non-aggressive --- in character. MOL will not be a bomb carrier.

At the same time that he announced the decision to proceed with MOL, President Johnson reaffirmed the U.S. intention not to place weapons of mass destruction in orbit. The President said "We continue to live up to our agreement not to orbit weapons of mass destruction and we will continue to hold out to all nations, including the Soviet Union, the hand of cooperation in the exciting years of exploration which lie ahead for all of us."

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SECDEF

By way of background, two years ago the U.S. and USSR each stated it would refrain from orbiting weapons of mass destruction in outer space or stationing such weapons on celestial bodies. The U.S. and Soviet statements were expressly welcomed by the UNGA in resolution 1884 (XVIII) adopted unanimously Oct. 17, 1963, as an important step in preventing the spread of an arms race to outer space. The resolution calls on all states to refrain from conducting or encouraging such activities.

Q. Doesn't the MOL approval nevertheless mean that the U.S. has embarked on a new policy with respect to military activity in space?

A. No, it does not. The MOL fits into and is a logical next step in a continuing U.S. military program in space which derives from our Space Act. The Act itself makes clear that the U.S., while seeking to help develop space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, intends to utilize its space activities in maximizing its defensive capability.

The MOL was first announced in December, 1963, at the time when DYNASOAR, a military manned spaceflight project dating from the 1950's, was cancelled. DYNASOAR was cancelled because it was aimed solely toward the development of advanced reentry techniques. MOL began to be studied at that time because

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SECDEF

it seemed to give promise of being a broader and more useful research and experimental program, focussing on man himself in space rather than machinery, equipment, and techniques as such.

Q. Wont the MOL approval touch off a military space race with the Soviets?

A. We see no reason to think this. The Soviet Union has for some time been carrying out a comprehensive space program involving manned and unmanned flights of various kinds, and doubtless will continue to do so. The U.S. has no desire or intention to engage in a military space race with the USSR. Our only intention is to take those measures in space as elsewhere that responsibility and prudence dictate in terms of our national security. The decision to proceed with the MOL is motivated by the need to do more research; it is not a reaction to any Soviet space project, program, or statements.

Q. Why does this have to be a manned operation; couldn't unmanned satellites do the job?

A. If there were a computer which did not have to be programmed could therefore think independently, and had eyes and hands to be put at the service of that thinking ability, the human element might well be taken out of the manned orbiting laboratory project.

Despite the onrush of automation, this is not the case now or in

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... succeed with the MOL is motivated by the need to do more research;  
it is not a response to any Soviet space program, or statements.

Q. Will this have to be a manned operation; could it  
be a manned satellite?

A. If there were a computer which did not have to be programmed  
could therefore think independently, and no hands to be put at  
the controls, that thinking ability, the human element, will be  
the key to the manned orbiting laboratory project. Despite the current  
of automation, this is not the case now or in the foreseeable future. Man

still has a unique role to play on the land, sea and in the air for many  
defense and other purposes. The MOL project is a research effort to  
see whether this is true in the new environment of space as well.

Q. Will the TITAN IIC as it is now configured be used to  
launch the Manned Orbiting Laboratory?

A. As previously stated, TITAN III consists of a family of  
vehicles in our building block concept. This family may run from the  
use of the TITAN III core alone to the use of TITAN III with 7 segment  
120 inch solid motors, or 2 or 3 segment, 156 inch solid motors. For  
MOL we anticipate TITAN III with the 7 segment 120 inch motor.

Q. Why do you need a 7 segment 120 inch rather than 5 segment?

A. We must be prepared to launch the MOL from the Western  
Test Range and to do this requires more thrust than that necessary from  
the Eastern Test Range.

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Q. Are you planning to launch the MOL from the Cape and from Vandenberg AFB?

A. Yes we are.

Q. What launch will take place out of the Cape and what will take place out at Vandenberg AFB?

A. This will be determined later on basis of experiment schedule and orbits desired for each flight.

Q. Where are the MOL mission control by location?

A. From Eastern Test Range on the East Coast and the Air Force Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Q. Will TITAN III still continue to be launched from Cape Kennedy ~~KSC~~ following the research and development program?

A. Yes TITAN III will be used for the Initial Defense Communication Satellite Program plus any other payloads assigned to us.

Q. Will you build full ITL at Vandenberg AFB and when will this be available for the first launch?

A. We are planning to build an initial launch capability at Vandenberg Air Force Base. This consists of one pad where the vehicle will be built upon the pad and we anticipate having a launching capability in mid-1968.

Q. Have you acquired the land for your launching facility at Vandenberg AFB.

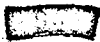
A. No.

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Q. What is meant by a "shirt-sleeves" environment?

A. An environment spacious enough and safe enough to enable men to live, move, and work in it without having to use space suits. The MOL was once described by Secretary McNamara as intended to be about the size of a small house trailer; what is now envisaged is a laboratory "canister" about 40 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, joined to a GEMINI capsule, the whole ~~XXXXXX~~ thing to be launched by a TITAN IIC booster. Each man will have about 400 cubic feet of space in which to live and work.



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ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

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OCT 29 1965

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR The Secretary of the Navy  
The Secretary of the Air Force  
The Director of Defense Research & Engineering  
The Assistant Secretary of Defense  
(International Security Affairs)

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Guidance for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory  
(MOL) Program

It is requested that the following guidance with respect to the Manned Orbiting Laboratory program be brought to the attention of all activities and key personnel involved in that program.

At this time it is Department of Defense policy that public statements with regard to MOL will not be volunteered. Certain releases will be promulgated, as approved by the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), as program milestones occur. National level press queries will be referred to ASD(PA) for response. Local responses to queries will be confined to the aggregate of material provided through official channels subsequent to the Presidential announcement August 25, 1965. As of this date such material consists chiefly of the Department of Defense release regarding the Presidential announcement and the Pentagon backgrounder by Dr. Albert C. Hall, then Deputy Director (Space), ODDR&E, both of August 25, 1965. Speeches and interviews on MOL will not be volunteered, and all requests for speeches or interviews must be cleared with ASD(PA) prior to acceptance.

An amplified information plan for MOL is in coordination.

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*Arthur Sylvester*  
Arthur Sylvester

cc:  
Assistant Secretary of State for Public Affairs  
Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs (NASA)  
Director, U.S. Information Agency

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