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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

September 18, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE, RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

SUBJECT: MOL Program

I have reviewed the MOL Program Alternatives presentation submitted to me by General Schriever on 16 September. The conclusions indicated that a MOL capability that could more adequately satisfy national needs and be available within an early time frame and acceptable costs, can be developed.

In addition, such a MOL program would specifically provide:

1. The earliest possible manned space laboratory capability for conduct of significant and major military and civilian tasks of research, experiment, and test.

2. A manned space laboratory in the time period between the Gemini and Manned Lunar Landing programs; deriving maximum benefit from the former and providing maximum contribution to the latter.

3. A program deriving the maximum benefit from the investment, capability, and industrial resources available from the TITAN III and Gemini development efforts.

Based on these findings, which were briefed to Dr. Hall on 18 September, I request that the Air Force be authorized to take the following actions necessary to protect any of the options to proceed with such a program.

1. Complete the preparation of, and issue to industry, a Request for Proposal for the development of the Laboratory Vehicle by 2 November 1964.

DOWNGRADED AT 5 YEAR INTERVALS;
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
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2. Negotiate and accomplish a "Level of Effort" contract with the McDonnell Aircraft Corporation for the detailed design and initiation of development of the Gemini "B" Spacecraft. You will note that this proposed action would constitute the essence of our recommended reply to Dr. Seamans' letter to you on OSD intentions regarding continuation of Gemini production.

3. Negotiate and accomplish a "Level of Effort" contract with the Martin-Marietta Corporation for the design and development of the Titan III Integration and Structural Engineering Test Program.

4. Receive authorization to expend \$6.0 million of FY 65 deferred MOL program funds to accomplish the above.

We expect to complete our MOL Program Study and Analysis efforts in January 1965, and at that time we will present our findings and program recommendation for your approval.

I request approval of the above recommended actions and release of the necessary funds.

Brockway McMillan

BROCKWAY MCMILLAN
Acting Secretary of the Air Force

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