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FEB 19 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: February 14 Space Council Meeting

On February 14, Mr. Kirk and I accompanied Dr. Foster to a Space Council meeting. The agenda included two items: 1. The 1969 Paris Air Show; and 2. MOL/AAP presentations to the Congress. Among those present were the Vice President, Dr. Foster, Mr. Webb, Ambassador Bohlen, and representatives of AEC, Commerce, etc.

1969 Paris Air Show

Commerce was quite disturbed over the DoD announcement that it would not participate in the 1969 Paris Air Show. Dr. Foster related the DoD rationale (e.g., would not foster sales; Vietnam war; save money/curb travel, etc.). Commerce indicated that if DoD did not participate, none of the US agencies should participate (e.g., difficulty of getting US industry without DoD; need for logistics support by DoD, etc.).

The Vice President was quite emphatic in his belief that the US had to participate in a certain number of international expositions, that when we did, we had to go "first class", etc. He directed Commerce to reconvene their interagency planning group and come up with a recommendation, pros and cons, etc., in the next few months so that if the US did participate, appropriate plans and preparations could be made.

MOL/AAP Presentations to Congress

The Vice President expressed concern, in view of MOL classification, that MOL/AAP could be properly presented to the Congress and the public and not appear duplicative of each other. Both Dr. Foster and Mr. Webb summarized the gist of NASA and DoD statements to Congress, coordination

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between the two agencies, answers to probable questions, etc. Mr. Webb indicated that he did not feel MOL would have trouble but that AAP might.

I explained to the Vice President how we briefed the Chairmen and his designated Committee Members and Staff Members on MOL, who we have seen so far this year, and that we are asking each Chairman if sufficient people have been briefed, etc.

The Vice President seemed satisfied and asked if there were any comments. Ambassador Bohlen (looking at some notes) stated, "I see we have spent some \$722 million on this project. I propose that a Committee, consisting of the Secretary of State, the DCI, the Administrator, NASA, and the Secretary of Defense study the need . . . before we go any farther. . ." Dr. Foster explained some of the background, touched on the NRP ExCom, the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Group, etc. Ambassador Bohlen stated that this system had never been "approved by USIB", and I pointed out that USIB did not "approve" systems, per se.

The Vice President then inquired as to how MOL launches would be handled from a public relations standpoint. I indicated that our plan was predicated on a continuation of present US policy toward satellite reconnaissance, and that since it was physically impossible to disguise a MOL being built up on the pad, we expected to announce that fact, the launch, on-orbit health of the crew periodically, recovery, etc. I indicated that the crew would probably be permitted to discuss the general operation of the spacecraft, etc. with the press, but that there would be no discussion of the "military experiments" they performed.

It seemed at this point that Ambassador Bohlen was somewhat confused as to the functions of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Group (e.g., that perhaps, in his mind, their purpose was to review the "need" for MOL).

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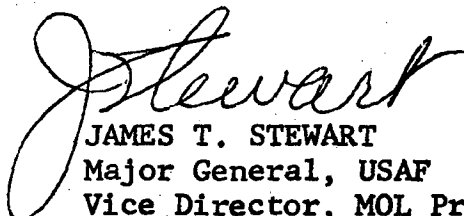
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In an aside, Dr. Foster proposed to the Ambassador that we give him a thorough briefing on MOL, and this was accepted. The Vice President, who had not participated in the Bohlen/Foster/Stewart discussion regarding the "need" and "USIB approval" understood that DoD would brief the Ambassador on MOL, and apparently left any further action after that up to Mr. Bohlen. The meeting was then adjourned.

Subsequent to the meeting, the Space Council Staff expressed considerable surprise at the Ambassador's proposal and questions. Mr. Kirk and I were equally surprised. The previous Friday, at his request, I had given Mr. Perez (State Department S&T Staff) a complete MOL/DORIAN updating so that he could brief the State Department representative at the meeting. The "\$722 million" figure quoted by Ambassador Bohlen was given by me to Mr. Perez; however, he did not ask any questions of other than an information nature.



JAMES T. STEWART  
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