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FEB 19 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: MOL/NSAM 156 Briefings to Ambassador Bohlen and  
State Department Staff Members

On February 16, as an outgrowth of the February 14 Space Council Meeting, briefings on MOL and NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Group activities were given to Ambassador Bohlen and several State Department Staff members (list attached). The DoD representatives included Mr. Nitze, Dr. Foster, Dr. Flax, myself, and Col Worthman.

I gave a full MOL briefing covering the background, program objectives, emphasizing the need for and value of [redacted] explained why both manned and unmanned systems were being developed, illustrated how the astronauts would use the Acquisition/Tracking Scopes, showed some pictures of activities at the various contractors, plus the schedule, and a summary (list of charts attached).

Mr. Bohlen's questions centered largely on the need for this resolution, whether the improvement [redacted] was worthwhile, how much the program would cost, and how vulnerable was the system to hostile action, etc. Mr. Nitze and Dr. Foster, citing examples, were quite emphatic that DoD felt the potential increase in information was needed and worth the cost. Mr. Bohlen was rather non-committal in his reaction to the explanations.

At one point, Mr. George Denney pressed as to whether there was any purpose for the MOL program other than reconnaissance. He also seemed to feel that COMOR's 1965 study on the value of high resolution (which I had used as an example) was the stated requirement for MOL. He then asked, "Well, if the Intelligence Community withdraws the requirement, then you will stop the program?" Mr. Nitze and

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Dr. Foster said that depended on what was meant by "Intelligence Community", that DoD had to make decisions on this information, etc.

The MOL discussion having been completed, Secretary Nitze and Dr. Foster departed at this point.

Colonel Worthman then briefed on the NRO "environment" and organization, touched on NRP accomplishments, and then discussed US security policy since 1960 with regard to overflight of denied areas. He discussed NSAM 156 and the subsequent activities of the various NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Group in some detail. At one point, Mr. Bohlen indicated that the policies and the continued reaffirmation of those policies were sound.

The discussions ended without any apparent follow-up actions required at this time on the part of SAFSL or the NRO.

SIGNED

JAMES T. STEWART  
Major General, USAF  
Director, MOL Program

2. Atch  
a/s

cc: Gen Ferguson  
Col Worthman

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STATE DEPARTMENT MEMBERS

Ambassador Charles Bohlen

Dep Under Secretary for Political Affairs Phillip J.  
Farley

Dep Asst Secretary for Political and Military  
Affairs Herman Pollock

Dir International Science and Technology Affairs  
Jerry Trippe

Acting Director for Atomic Energy and Aerospace  
George C. Denney

Dep Dir for Bureau of Intelligence and Research  
(Denney is Deputy to Mr. Hughes)