

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY, SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE (OSAF)
AF UNIT POST OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045



1 March 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR MEMBERS OF THE MOL EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Guidance for MOL Contractors in Dealings with
Members of Congress

During the January 24th MOL Executive Council Meeting at Valley Forge, General Stewart discussed possible events which might occur when Congress reviews the DoD FY 69 budget proposal for the MOL program. As a part of his remarks, General Stewart described each Senate and House Committee of Congress which has a responsibility for or an active interest in MOL. The membership of these committees and appropriate sub-committees was discussed and the level of MOL program information possessed by each individual member also was indicated. The attached list identifies the pertinent Senate and House Committees and their Chairmen. Each Chairman, and at least one staff member (although not always the Chief Counsel), has been briefed on the reconnaissance aspects of the MOL program. General Stewart's office maintains up-to-date records on the status of MOL information briefed or discussed with Committee and Staff members.

In the discussion following General Stewart's briefing, general guidance was provided with regard to the Congressional queries made direct to MOL contractors and/or contacts between contractor personnel and members of Congress. The purpose of this memorandum is to provide that guidance to you in writing so that it is clearly understood and available for future use.

By way of background, it is important to understand that the National Security Act specifically authorizes members of Congress access to all defense security information necessary for them to carry out their responsibilities. Therefore, a member of Congress does not require an additional formal clearance, per se, for access to sensitive data of any nature, nor is he required to sign a security oath with regard to any information provided him. However, the Executive Department and the leaders of Congress do exercise discretionary judgment in the most sensitive areas of national security. This is done through the appropriate Committee Chairmen. The individual Chairman is briefed and asked to designate for briefing the minimum number of committee members necessary for the



BYE-89593-68

*See A by #4
BYC-89593-68
Cp 1*

~~SECRET~~

DORIAN

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
REGRADING, DOD DIR 5200.10
DOES NOT APPLY.

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

committee to carry on its work and, at the same time, maintain the highest possible security. Generally, the Chairman designates several key members, including senior minority party members, plus one or two staff members. In the case of staff members, they do not have the same statutory privileges as a member of Congress and therefore must undergo a formal security review and sign an appropriate security oath if briefed on MOL or other sensitive programs.

An important point which should be understood is that unless a member of Congress has been exposed to this special system, he may be unaware that some information to which he has a legal right has not been made available to him. In that vein, a Congressman simply can never be told that he does not have the appropriate clearances or a need-to-know for certain information. In a direct confrontation, the final recourse for a contractor is to state that he is contractually constrained by the government to release no information about the contract without specific permission of the contracting officer.

To avoid undesirable and/or embarrassing situations, the East Coast MOL Office works closely with the Air Force Legislative Liaison people and members of the Congress. This close contact usually prevents surprises, but it is not foolproof. Therefore, should you receive an unexpected contact from a Congressman with regard to MOL, or on a general matter which might reasonably bring MOL into a discussion or briefing, contact me immediately. If, for any reason, you are unable to reach me, call General Stewart direct and respond to his guidance. In either case, please be sure that the contact has fully identified himself and his committee; and, in the case of Staff Assistants, his position on the committee staff, the purpose for which the contact was being made, the urgency for the information, and any other pertinent information you think would be helpful in assisting either General Stewart or myself to determine a proper course of action.

I request that you keep a detailed chronology of events, beginning with the initial inquiry or request, of any Congressional contact and provide it to me in a suitable report at the conclusion of the incident.

Should you have personal friends in Congress with whom you would like to discuss the program, you should fully inform me of

2

~~SECRET~~

Bye-89593-68

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

all aspects prior to any such discussion, and allow adequate time for me to confer with the Washington office.

I hope you find the above information useful. Please handle this memorandum with appropriate discretion and do not hesitate to contact me if clarification or additional information is needed.

1 Atch
List of
Committees
and Chairmen

J. S. Bleymaier
JOSEPH S. BLEYMAIER
Major General, USAF
Deputy Director, MOL Program

~~SECRET~~

Bye-89593-68

~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

COMMITTEES/CHAIRMEN

1. Senate Committee on Armed Services
Chairman: Richard B. Russell
2. Senate Committee on Appropriations
Chairman: Carl Hayden
3. House Committee on Armed Services
Chairman: L. Mendel Rivers
4. House Committee on Appropriations
Chairman: George H. Mahon
5. House Committee on Science and Astronautics
Chairman: George P. Miller

~~SECRET~~

Atch 1
Bye-89503-68
en 1

HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY