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SEP 27 1968

General Ferguson:

Since I gather your schedule is rather crowded, let me take this means of catching you up-to-date on a few MOL items.

IVS Ad Hoc Review Group

Dr. O'Brien's group met at Valley Forge on 20/21 September. There has been great progress in this area since the gloomy prospects of last June. The Ad Hoc Group believed (and we agree) that either the Goodyear or Eycan device should meet the automatic tracking accuracy requirements but that Itek is out of the MOL race. The Group also had some helpful suggestions, particularly in the testing area. Colonel Cheadle has a copy of their draft report along with a memo from me to you and Dr. Flax. I will prepare suitable letters of appreciation to the Ad Hoc Group members for your signature.

MOL Manning

Joe Bleymaier and I met with John Hudson on September 18 re MOL manpower. We generally agreed to attempt to stabilize the whole Systems Office personnel picture by mid-1969, rather than just the 30-40 key Colonels, Lt Colonels, and Majors we discussed with you several months ago. This appears quite feasible within normal USAF personnel practices and policies and AFSC latitude. I do not think this requires your personal attention until we get into specific Colonel assignments. I am sure John Hudson will keep you advised as necessary.

Future MOL Contingent at Vandenberg AFB

You may hear some wild rumors about the MOL Systems Office planning to move to VAFB -- not quite so. The mission simulator will be available at VAFB some time in early 1970 and at that point we probably should move the Astronauts and Joe's Operations shop to VAFB since they will spend virtually all of their time

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there. Perhaps some other MOL elements closely associated with assembly, check-out, and launch should also move to VAFB by mid-1970, but the technical, financial, etc. part of the Systems Office undoubtedly must stay with SAMSO. Anyway, Joe is studying this and may mention it during your visit. Gen O'Neill is aware of Joe's efforts.

Value of Resolution Study

Nevin Palley's Ad Hoc Study Group on the value of resolution is struggling along (I am a member). They are struggling in that it is difficult to assign a dollar value to the product which is what the Systems Analysis people would like. DIA, DDR&E, NRO, and MOL all are involved, and I am sure the final product will be a plus for MOL. A report should be ready in November.

Rumblings in the Senate

As you know, the House Appropriations Bill pegs MOL at \$515 million (done in collaboration with us). Senator Clark (Pa., not involved in MOL), supported by Senator Mansfield, has proposed a series of amendments zeroing out various programs (Chinook, Poseidon, MOL, etc.). We have gone back to the key people and armed them with suitable info for the record. No real trouble is anticipated.

SIGNED

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

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