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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

11 FEB 1959

on NOV 26 1997

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

**SUBJECT: Proposed Extension of the Thor Boosted Satellite
Reconnaissance Program**

1. An evaluation of presently established intelligence requirements for coverage of the Soviet Bloc considered in context with the schedules for both CORONA and SENSY clearly establishes the need for the extension of the Thor boosted Satellite Reconnaissance Program into CY 1960.

2. The recently directed reductions of the number of ARPA DISCOVERER flights has resulted in Project CORONA's being cut from the twelve payload flights originally planned to eight such flights for CY 1959. In view of the development problems in the early phases of this program which introduce a factor of uncertainty in regard to successful launches and recoveries and the operational limitations imposed by distance and cloud cover, it is considered essential that provisions be made for the full twelve payload flights in order to give reasonable assurance of accomplishing the complete phase coverage of the Soviet Bloc during 1959. Furthermore, in order to meet critical intelligence requirements for follow-on twice over coverage of target areas in CY 1960 an estimated eight additional flights will be needed. The reduced requirement for payload flights in CY 1960 as compared to CY 1959 is based on an anticipated improvement in systems reliability and performance. In summary, an additional twelve flights to those eight presently approved by ARPA for CORONA are needed. This requirement for the extension of the Thor boosted satellite operation is fully concurred in by the CIA.

3. Estimated funds to provide this program are shown on the attached schedule. FY 1959 funds in the amount of [redacted] are required to provide initiation for the hardware required. It is requested that funds in the amount of [redacted] be transferred from OSD Emergency Funds to the Advanced Research Projects Agency. The remaining [redacted] required for the FY 1959 program will be made available from Air Force FY 1959 or FY 1960 funds, dependent upon fund availability during the course of this fiscal year.

Signed:

Malcolm A. MacIntyre
Under Secretary

Att.

DISCOVERY EXPENDITURE

SCHEDULE

FY 1959

FY 1960

8 Original

May-----1
June-----1
July-----2
August-----2
September-----2

12 Extension

October-----2
November-----2

May-----2
June-----2
July-----2
August-----2

COST ESTIMATES

(In Millions)

FY 1959

FY 1960

FY 1961

Old Agency
Funds

AP
Funds

MRB

8 Flights Hardware

4 Flights Hardware

8 Flights Launch

4 Flights Launch

8 Payloads

4 Payloads

To be furnished

TEHR BOOSTERS

12 Launchings

12 Boosters

RADC

Support

TOTAL