



NRO file

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

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on NOV 26 1997

Dr. Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
Washington, D. C.

13 Dec 1963

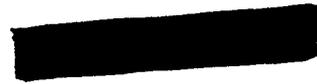
Dear Brock:

Your revised proposal of 10 December 1963 for management of the CORONA program raises several questions in my mind. I must go to Saigon on Monday and will not be able to give you my views until after the first of the year. In the meantime, I consider it essential that no action be taken within the NRO or its contractor structure which might prejudice our ability to implement other management approaches, and I therefore desire that the status quo be maintained until I have further considered the matter.

In our several recent discussions, I have emphasized to you, for reasons which I felt were valid, that the resources of both the Central Intelligence Agency and the Air Force in fields related to aerial photography -- both aircraft and satellite -- must be preserved. Furthermore, I have stated that these resources are not only in-house capabilities but also the unique contractor capabilities which have been developed at the insistence of CIA by encouragement and close and intimate working relationships. The same is true of the relationship with consultants, scientists and academicians. I have been informed by several sources that major contractors no longer feel free to meet with CIA officials and discuss problems which, through the years have been matters of mutual interest, without first securing Air Force permission. This extends both to the problems related to existing programs and to discussions of new concepts.

Any such limitation, whether the result of a directive from a procurement officer or a subtle hint, would in my opinion violate the basic tenet of the NRO agreement which provides for the full utilization of the resources of both the Air Force and CIA. Therefore, I would like you, during the next week, to make it abundantly clear to your staff, and to [redacted] and his staff, that any instruction or remark which carried the above policy implications should be corrected forthwith. I, of course, will take such action with the contractors as is appropriate to insure no misunderstanding concerning the CIA's continued interest in reconnaissance.

Sincerely,



John A. McCone
Director

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EXECUTIVE
ROOM 7

