

NOV 26 1997

~~TOP SECRET~~

on _____

6 October 1964

Dear Cy:

At recent NRC ExCom meetings (September 1st and September 10th), statements were made by the D/NRO that CIA contracting and other participation in the CORONA program was so dispersed that it required him or his staff to contact several offices and individuals to obtain information essential to him for the proper direction of the CORONA program.

I advised you, without commenting on the validity of this statement, that we would place a senior staff project officer [REDACTED] on the West Coast in [REDACTED] organization and responsible to [REDACTED] and that this project engineer would be in charge of all of CIA's contracting and other activities in connection with the CORONA program. At the same meeting it was agreed that the veto concept of the Configuration Control Board would be dispensed with and the Board would act in an advisory capacity to [REDACTED] who would be responsible for final decisions subject, of course, to the direction of D/NRO. Dr. McMillan would be responsible to you and me for the conduct of the program.

I agreed to prepare a memorandum for the Executive Committee and for Dr. McMillan proposing a working relationship between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and those assigned to assist him, and the purpose of this letter is to outline my concept of the arrangements.

Basically [REDACTED] will be assigned to [REDACTED] and will consider himself a part of [REDACTED] organization. He would be authorized to communicate with the Office of DD/S&T in CIA in Washington Headquarters to obtain advice, guidance and assistance from the staff here.

Note: Copies [REDACTED] were returned

[REDACTED]

Copy # [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] copies

[REDACTED]

In examining CIA activities in connection with the contracting and security of the CORONA project, it is to be noted that the areas of responsibility are those indicated in the attached schematic diagram which I think is familiar to you. Every phase of the CIA activities encompassed in the orange square on the attached chart would become a responsibility of [REDACTED] under the direction of [REDACTED]. The contracts would remain as CIA contracts, which I believe essential to preserve security and continuity, and appropriate funding would be arranged by D/NRC through Program B to carry the program forward without interruption.

[REDACTED] operating under [REDACTED] direction, would be specifically responsible for the following CIA activities and would provide a single point of contact which appears desirable, i.e.:

- a. The payload contracts (Lockheed, ITEK, and GE) via the CIA contracting officer who would be located with him in [REDACTED] area.
- b. The security of the payload through a CIA security man located in Los Angeles.
- c. Two CIA technical people, who would be assigned to him to work in CORONA.
- d. The assembly, integration and checkout process and facility at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested.

In addition, [REDACTED] because of his background of experience together with the competence of the men who would be assigned to his staff, would I believe strengthen [REDACTED] organization and the NRO.

As I mentioned in our meetings, I believe that this organization must be usefully employed, otherwise it would be an extravagance and a waste of talent to assign them to [REDACTED]. To accomplish this, I would suggest their participation should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Participation in all contractor/supplier meetings, across the system interfaces, such that the team responsible for payload development remains fully cognizant of total system status.

b. Recognition by the [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] role in the payload area.

c. Participation in the Configuration Control Board, or whatever coordinating mechanism is established to coordinate the system.

It is my considered judgment that the concentration of these activities in the hands of a man of [REDACTED] competence and under the direction of [REDACTED] would significantly improve the satellite reconnaissance program and would be a further step in the utilization of the unique resources and skills capable of contributing to this program, which is a fundamental concept of the NRO. You can be assured of our enthusiastic support of this arrangement.

Sincerely,

John A. McCone
Director

Attachment - Diagram

D Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

Hand-carried by DDCI to ExCom meeting on 10/6/64. DDCI to get DCI's signature on this at the meeting, and deliver the copies to addressee at the meeting.

[REDACTED]
Distribution:
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET~~

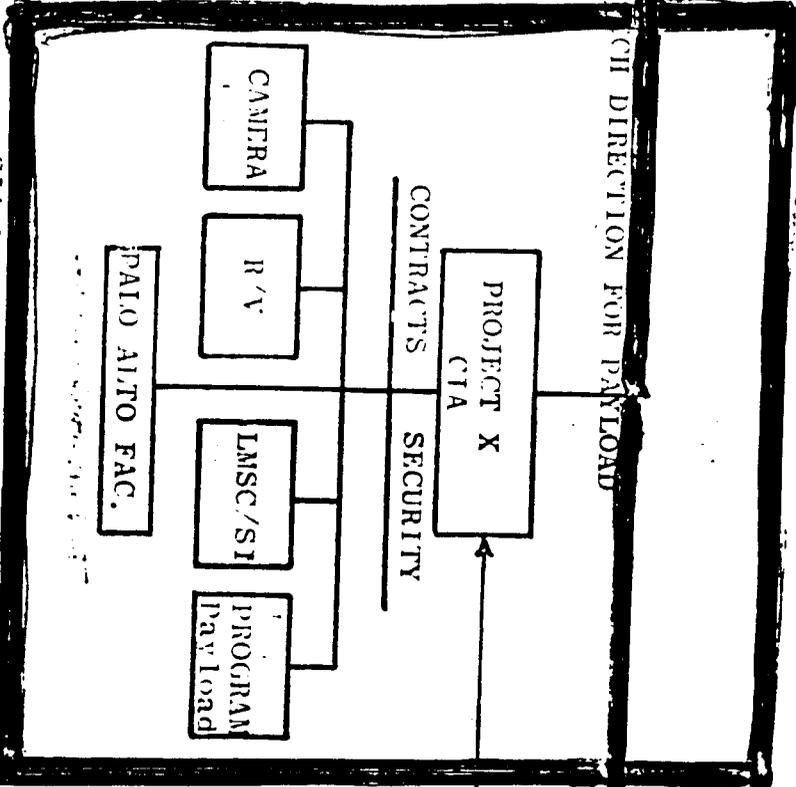
HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]

PROGRAM B

CONTRACTS SECURITY

FUNDING
CIA DIRECTION FOR PAYLOAD

NRO



CIA WEST COAST FACILITY

PROGRAM A

CORONA
COORD - COM.

[REDACTED]

LAUNCH VEH.
DAC/EMSC

LAUNCH &
RECOVERY

Program Authority
Payload
Vehicle
Funding & Tech. Dir.
for Payload

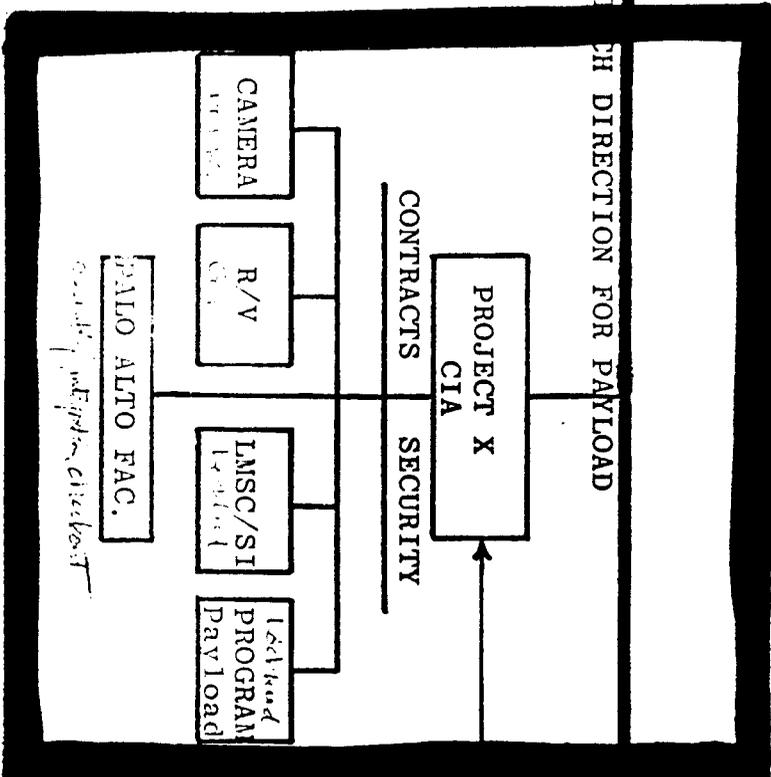
NRO

PROGRAM B

PROGRAM A

FUNDING TECH DIRECTION FOR PAYLOAD

CONTRACTS SECURITY



CIA WEST COAST FACILITY

CORONA COORD - COM.

LAUNCH VEH. DAC/LMSC

LAUNCH & RECOVERY

Program Authority _____

Vehicle _____

Funding & Tech. Div. _____

for payload _____

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense

SUBJECT : CIA Program B Participation in CORONA

1. At the NRO Ex Com meeting of 1 September 1964 it was agreed that CIA would continue its present responsibility in contracting for all elements of the CORONA payload. This requires that adequate funds be included in the CIA/Program B Budget for FY-65 to support these contracts for the balance of the fiscal year. Since these funds are now carried in the proposed NRO budget under AF/Program A, the DNRO should be directed to modify that budget and effect the funds transfer promptly to cover the payload commitments which have been directed by NRO and made to the contractors by CIA in the interest of keeping the CORONA program on schedule.
2. A parallel decision was reached to delegate the CORONA contractor's responsibility to a CIA contracts officer on the West Coast. CIA is also to add whatever people are necessary to our West Coast assets to ensure our provision of adequate technical competence as advisors to [REDACTED] and as technical overseers of our contracts. I have studied the ways in which this second decision can best be implemented. I believe that it is important to establish specific terms of reference for the CIA team which is to carry the CORONA payload on the West Coast and these are set forth below.
3. The manner in which we propose to proceed builds around a senior CIA man who would be posted to Los Angeles and physically located with [REDACTED]. He would provide [REDACTED] with a single point-of-contact, close at hand, for all aspects of the program assigned to CIA, and would be specifically responsible for the following:

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a. The payload contracts (Lockheed, ITEK, and G2) via the CIA contracting officer who would be located with him in [REDACTED] area.

b. The security of the payload through a CIA security man located in Los Angeles.

c. Two CIA technical people, who would be assigned to him to work in CORONA.

d. The assembly, integration and checkout process and facility at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested.

This senior man and his team would be responsible to [REDACTED]. They would retain appropriate lines for funding, communications and technical assistance back to CIA/Program B in Washington. The senior man and a contract/security man could appear at Los Angeles immediately and his complete team could be assembled within two months.

4. We propose to support the CIA West Coast CORONA team with the considerable technical in-house assets of CIA/DDS&T as required. In addition, we have a depth of covert support available in Headquarters to backstop the team in Los Angeles to whom the CORONA responsibilities would be delegated.

5. In order to make this arrangement a working one, I believe that the CIA team must be a participating part of the program in every sense of the word. Such participation should include, but not be limited to:

a. Participation in all contractor/supplier meetings, across the system interfaces, such that the team responsible for payload development remain fully cognizant of total system status.

b. Recognition by the [REDACTED] of the CIA's role in the payload area.

c. Participation in the Configuration Control Board, or whatever coordinating mechanism is established to coordinate the system.

[REDACTED]

6. It is my considered judgment that implementation of the agreement to furnish CIA support in California, which takes proper account of the responsibilities and terms of reference outlined here, would have significant benefit to the program. You can be assured of our enthusiastic support of such an arrangement.

John A. McCone
Director

DDS&T:DDCI: [REDACTED] (5 Oct 64)
Distribution:

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]