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25 June 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the Director
for Planning and Development

SUBJECT: Air Force Support for Project CORONA

1. Within the past week it has become increasingly apparent to the Administrative and Material Sections of the Development Projects Staff that we are now approaching a phase of Project CORONA activities where it will become necessary to obtain policy support from Headquarters Air Force. Specifically, this has manifested itself in two or three areas:

- a. Several CORONA suppliers, in a meeting held with them in Washington on 24 June, have indicated that they now have or will shortly have, significant problems in obtaining electronic parts from vendors who are operating within the framework of the Air Force priorities system. They have indicated that they will soon ask for assistance in obtaining priorities to support their requirements. Such priorities can only be assigned the Air Force contract number applied to CORONA on the initiative of Headquarters Air Force, and thru them, AHC. At present, no request has been made of Air Force to do this, and no central point for funneling requests from suppliers has been identified.

It appears that Colonel [redacted] office should be the focal point for such CORONA priorities requirements, but at present Colonel [redacted] charter to operate does not extend beyond support to Project [redacted]. Needed is an instruction from General White or the DCS/O to [redacted] to perform this service. Once this is done, the entire community of CORONA suppliers can bring their problems to [redacted], such as [redacted] suppliers formerly brought their requests to [redacted] when he was on [redacted] staff.

- b. As you know, we have indicated our willingness to pay for the costs arising from the installation of a signals

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center in Ballistics Missiles Division to support COMBIA requirements. While it appears that there are in CIA and Air Force mechanisms for funding this requirement, [REDACTED] office is reluctant to undertake this step until their [REDACTED] support charter is broadened to include active support to COMBIA, lest there ensue real confusion as to the purpose and origin of such a requirement. As in paragraph 1a, above, an instruction to [REDACTED] to get on with support of COMBIA from his cognizant superiors is all that is immediately required.

2. Accordingly, it is suggested that you evaluate the advisability of requesting the Chief of Staff, or other appropriate Air Force senior source to direct the support of Project COMBIA by [REDACTED] with such support to include the assignment of an appropriate military priority to permit assistance to COMBIA suppliers in the manner outlined herein. In the light of COMBIA's timetable, I can only urge that such a step take place as soon as possible.

[REDACTED]
Deputy Director, IAS/DCI

COORDINATION:

<u>15'</u> Logistics	<u>15'</u> Security	<u>15'</u> Contracting	<u>15'</u> Communications
		<u>15'</u> Finance	

Distribution:

[REDACTED]