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FACTS

1. Announced United States national policy is that space should be utilized for peaceful purposes.
2. Employment of satellites for reconnaissance is not only contrary to announced national policy in regard to space but is also considered as overflight which is controlled by political decision.
3. CIA has been assigned responsibility for certain aspects of the program primarily because of security.
4. CIA has developed an effective administrative organization to handle the security problem and covert procurement.
5. In keeping with the security arrangement, ARPA, within the Department of Defense, manages the program, which appears to be an R&D project, in order to provide a logical security cover.
6. The U.S. Preliminary Policy on Outer Space as stated in NSC 5814/1 was approved by the President 18 August 1958. (The Objectives, Policy Guidance and paragraphs pertaining to Reconnaissance Satellites are attached as Inclosure 1.)
7. The current security policy is based on the situation expressed in a document dated 8 Dec 1958. Inclosure 2.
8. The decision to extend the current security policy is explained in Memorandum for the Deputy Secretary of Defense, Subject: Approval of Extension of Project CORONA dated 29 April 1959.

REASONS WHY THE AIR FORCE SHOULD TAKE OVER THE PROGRAM

1. This is primarily a military operation conducted by an Air Force command.
2. The follow-on program is Air Force funded with the exception of [redacted] provided from DOD emergency funds.
3. Air Force is principle user of aerial or satellite reconnaissance. Majority of intelligence objectives are of Air Force primary interest.

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4. Air Force control of exploitation procedures and policies will insure maximum use of data by the principle consumer--Air Force
5. The precedent of CIA operation of DISCOVERER may have an effect on the future operation of SENTRY.

REASONS WHY THE AIR FORCE SHOULD NOT TAKE OVER THE PROGRAM

1. The decision paper directed the operation to continue in the same manner.
2. Security, at this time, is of the utmost importance from the political standpoint. A transfer of responsibility during the active operation of the program could result in an inadvertent compromise which could terminate the project and jeopardize SENTRY.
3. The objective of the program - to obtain four time coverage of the Soviet Bloc during the period 1959-60 - was established by the Air Force and will remain the same regardless of which agency is directing the project.
4. There would be no changes in the Procurement Development/Operational arrangements - ARPA-HQD - Contractor. These arrangements with HQD and contractor will last at least through 1961 for all Space Systems.
5. There are few specific cases where CIA has operated to the detriment of the Air Force. Possible case could be the delay in obtaining security clearances.

CONCLUSIONS

1. The President has decided on the continuation of the program under the present operating procedures.
2. Any recommendation the Air Force makes to take over the program will have to be of sufficient importance to have the President change his mind.

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3. In the event the Air Force does take control from CIA, ARPA participation would probably continue.

4. The program is operating effectively at this time. There is no indication at present that CIA participation is working to the detriment of the overall program.

5. The latest decision paper recognizes the possibility of the CIA turning over control when security has been lessened. Reconsideration can be made in the future.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the Air Force does not attempt to take control of the program from CIA at this time.

2. That aggressive planning for exploitation by the Air Force continue.

3. That the Air Force request complete control following any relaxation of the security policy.

4. That the Air Force obtain sufficient clearances for personnel engaged in SENTRY planning.

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