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13 April 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Director, Office of Special Activities
SUBJECT : A Program [redacted] Office in the A/P Facility

1. We recently became aware that Director, Program A intends to establish a small staff of officers at the A/P facility to represent the newly organized Program [redacted] Office. Clearly it seems to be his intention to have these officers manage and direct the payload activities at A/P. Otherwise, it would have been much simpler to locate the staff at the Sunnyvale complex.

2. Director, Program B has direct responsibility for security and cover at the A/P facility. In addition, the contract is written by the Program B office as a "black" contract. Two representatives of Program B are at A/P; Lt. Col. Vernard Webb and Col. Murphy. Webb has responsibility for payload acceptance, technical guidance to the contractor, and for insuring direct consideration of customer requirements. Col. Murphy is responsible for operational planning and payload operation.

3. This appears to us to be another move on the part of [redacted] to take the CORONA Program over completely. The implication of this move are:

a. The security of the A/P facility could be badly compromised. The chief officer to be installed there, Lt. Col. Conway, is very well identified as a "recce" type and will be unable to avoid identification with Program [redacted]

b. Should the move succeed, the customer (primarily NPIC) will find himself very far removed indeed, from the program managers. Currently, Mr. Webb provides a direct link between the A/P and the customer. Even under the present arrangement he has experienced many instances in which the Air Force has

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Information

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shown itself to be externally insensitive to customer requirements. This has been evident on other programs as well.

1. On the CORONA program the Air Force, for awhile, tried to delete the horizon cameras which are necessary to NPIC for accurate measurements.

2. The Air Force, on the M-26 flight of the CORONA program, shortened the environmental chamber test in the interest of meeting a flight schedule. The result was severe corona markings on the film.

3. There has been little if any consultation with the customer on the [REDACTED] program. One of the results has been the lack of horizon cameras or other accurate attitude measurement. Thus, NPIC has been unable to make measurements on the [REDACTED] photography, resulting in a considerable reduction in usefulness.

c. Finally, this move will push the Agency almost completely out of the CORONA program. We realize this issue is being considered at very high levels of the government; however, while we await a decision, Program A has made another move. We feel that they should, at the very least, be held off until a decision is made on Agency vs. USAF responsibility.

[REDACTED]

APD/OSA

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(13 April 1964)

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