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Re me in Dr. Wheelon
office 14 Nov 1964.



[REDACTED]

Copy [REDACTED]

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : CORONA

1. At your request, we have prepared the attached documentation dealing with the CORONA issue and the role which the Agency will play in CORONA through [REDACTED]

2. Attachment A is a simple, historic summary of recent correspondence between the Agency and the Pentagon regarding CORONA. Attachment B is an outline of the issues at stake and what position the Air Force holds versus CIA. Attachment C sets forth the terms of reference which we would desire to be incorporated in any agreement concerning the Agency's role in the CORONA Program.

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

Attachments: as stated

Declassified and Released by the NRC

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

on _____

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HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]
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ATTACHMENT A TO
[REDACTED]

AUGUST 26, 1964 - [REDACTED]

Meeting with Secretary Vance, Fubini, Kiefer, General Carter.

General Carter brought up CORONA Procurement, stating that funds beyond the current contract extensions to September and October had not been released to Program B. Mr. Kiefer's understanding was that this was being done through Program A in accord with agreement at the August 11 meeting, as recorded by Dr. McMillan. In order to clarify this understanding, the pertinent section of Dr. McMillan's memorandum for record of August 11 meeting was read by Secretary Vance.

General Carter stated that such an arrangement obviated any input by CIA into the CORONA program in the future. Secretary Vance summarized to this point in that there was agreement on the SETD function via contractor, and that CIA technical participation was desirable.

AUGUST 28, 1964 - [REDACTED]

Letter from General Carter to Secretary Vance.

Letter attested to fact that Agency had no record of discussion regarding transfer of contracting responsibility for CORONA payload from Program B to Program A. Further, that Mr. McCone did not agree to any changes in contracting procedures and particularly to any change in the responsibility for payload contracting.

OCTOBER 3, 1964 - [REDACTED]

Memorandum for the Record by General Carter.

"In letter of 28 August, Mr. Vance pointed out his belief that all contracting responsibility for CORONA payloads

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CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY

October 3, 1964 - [REDACTED]
Memorandum for the Record by General Carter (cont)

should be under [REDACTED] and implied that we (Ex Com, NRO) had agreed that this was feasible and should be done, or at least tried.

On 1 September at NRO Ex Com meeting attended by DCI and DDCI, there was lengthy and involved discussion of CORONA contracting. Mr. Vance said he was prepared to continue the CORONA contracting procedure as presently established if this was Mr. McCone's firm desire. Mr. McCone stated that it was, and it was therefore agreed that the contracting responsibilities remain as currently assigned.

On 10 September, Mr. McCone briefed the Ex Com, NRO, on his plans to augment the West Coast component of CIA and take over responsibility for all CIA contracting and other functions. There was no discussion of or dissent to CIA contracting for CORONA.

On 29 September, the Ex Com meeting, Mr. Vance reopened the entire business of CORONA contracting and the meeting was quite vituperative on the part of McMillan. After lengthy inconclusive discussion in which no commitments were made, McMillan stated he had sent both Vance and me a memorandum of exactly what the contracts he was talking about encompassed.

On 1 October, the memorandum from McMillan makes it clear that the CORONA contracting he wants to transfer to the Air Force includes the Systems Integration contract at Lockheed (formerly known as [REDACTED]).

On 2 October, Secretary Vance called me about these contracts and I reiterated the positions previously taken by me and Mr. McCone, to wit: The contracts previously and presently held by the CIA should remain with the CIA and we would augment our staff on the West Coast to administer them as previously agreed. "

OCTOBER 6, 1964 - [REDACTED]

Letter from Mr. McCone to Secretary Vance.

Outlined the Director's proposal for assigning [REDACTED] to [REDACTED] and that [REDACTED] 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.

This letter further suggested that:

- a. [REDACTED] and his staff participate 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.

OCTOBER 15, 1964 - [REDACTED]

In responding to the Director's letter of 6 October, Secretary Vance acknowledged the Director's proposal to

October 15, 1964 - [REDACTED] (cont)

consolidate under [REDACTED] the CIA responsibilities for security, contracting, and technical assistance in the CORONA Program.

The letter went on to propose that:

- a. [REDACTED] would have complete technical direction as well as over-all management control.
- b. [REDACTED] would perform the General System Engineering function.
- c. [REDACTED] as CORONA Project Director, be chairman of the CORONA Advisory Committee.
- d. Technical directions on approved changes would be prepared by the CORONA Project Director (i. e. [REDACTED]).
- e. There would be a single authoritative representation of the Government for technical direction on the entire CORONA system (Re-entry Vehicle, Camera, Sub-structure, Agena, etc.). This would be [REDACTED] responsibility.

Secretary Vance agreed with the Director's plan for realignment of management controls and urged that it should proceed without delay.

OCTOBER 26, 1964 - [REDACTED]

In reply to Secretary Vance, the Director agreed that [REDACTED] should exercise complete technical direction and that corporations such as [REDACTED] and others should be assigned responsibilities such as general systems engineering functions.

The Director referred to his October 6 letter regarding [REDACTED] responsibilities, and further, that General Carter, Dr. McMillan, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] meet to work out the details. The Director suggested that final

October 26, 1964 - [REDACTED] (cont)

arrangements agreed upon should be set forth in a memorandum for the record prepared at the conclusion of the meeting.

ATTACHMENT B to

[REDACTED]

ISSUES

Pentagon Position

[REDACTED] Complete technical direction of entire program.

[VANCE LETTER OF 15 OCT]
[REDACTED] BY M'CONS
ON 26 OCT 64.

[REDACTED] as CORONA Project Director.

[REDACTED] to control budget and funds.

Desires to control on-orbital operations of the camera.

CIA Position

Under [REDACTED] direction, [REDACTED] have technical direction to payload contractors (i.e. Re-entry Vehicle, Camera, LMSC SI, AP facility).

Under [REDACTED] over-all management, there should be two deputies in the CORONA Project. [REDACTED] as Technical Director of the payload (re-entry vehicle, camera, LMSC SI, and AP facility) and [REDACTED] as Technical Director for booster and responsible for launch, space tracking and recovery.

CIA to control budget and funds concerning payload contracts.

Lt. Col. Webb, our representative at the AP facility should continue, under [REDACTED] overall direction, to be responsible for the on-orbit operation and decisions affecting the payload and be directly responsive to targeting requirements from from the NRO/SOC. In other words, the Air Force controls the operation of the vehicle, CIA controls the operation of the camera.

ATTACHMENT B to
[REDACTED]

Pentagon Position

Preparation of camera program

All technical directions on approved changes be prepared by [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] be Chairman of the CORONA Advisory Committee.

Control and direct camera improvement program

Control of AP Facility.

CIA Position

Camera program and programming function should be CIA's responsibility.

Technical directions on approved changes concerning the payload be prepared and forwarded to contractors by [REDACTED]

Since CORONA is primarily a reconnaissance system, the center of gravity for the program should be in behalf of the payload and hence, [REDACTED] should be designated as Chairman of the CORONA Advisory Committee.

Improvement of any payload system should be under [REDACTED] direction.

AP Facility should be under [REDACTED]

Terms of Reference for CIA Participation in the CORONA Program

Post a senior CIA man in Los Angeles and support him directly with a small technical staff. Technical backup, as needed, will be supplied from CIA Headquarters. The CIA resident will be responsible to Program A for all the CIA activities now contributing to CORONA. CIA security personnel and contracting personnel will be assigned to him to enable him to discharge his responsibilities. Specifically these include but are not limited to:

1. Technical direction and contractual control of the payload contractors, i. e., Lockheed, ITEK, and GE.
2. Payload security.
3. Direction and control of the assembly, installation, and checkout facility (SKUNKWORKS) at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested. Includes responsibility for the CIA staff at Palo Alto.
4. Final payload buy-off at VAFB.
5. Overall direction of the operational aspects of the payload. Discharges these responsibilities through the CIA representative (Col. Webb) at the AP facility, who is directly responsive to targeting requirements from NRO/SOC, supplies him with guidance as to orbital parameters, and provides him detailed preflight mission planning. Col. Webb, under this overall direction, is also responsible for the on-orbit operations of and decisions affecting the payload.
6. Payload delivery to [REDACTED] To be effective in discharging these responsibilities to [REDACTED] [REDACTED] other prerogatives must be provided:
 - (a) Guaranteed participation in all contractor/supplier meetings affecting the CORONA system.

Handle via [REDACTED]
Control System

- (b) A well defined cooperative relationship with [REDACTED] which now is assuming a system engineering role in the CORONA program.
- (c) A controlling position in the configuration control board or succeeding coordination mechanism.