

~~SECRET~~



Cy. [redacted]
22 DEC 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Conversation with [redacted] regarding CORONA

1. [redacted] was in to see me today to discuss what appear to him as rather critical actions currently under way in the NRO that he felt we should be aware of. During the discussion he also emphasized the increasingly difficult circumstances under which he and his staff are working. The following are the more significant comments by [redacted]

a. Program Director A, in coordination with Director, NRO Staff, is realigning the CORONA management through the [redacted] Control Manual [redacted] which will eventually eliminate the AP facility from all but vital mission support. (Implementation will be through the [redacted] which, as you know, controls Commo procedures.)

b. All [redacted] continue being retransmitted to [redacted] (STC) via [redacted] [redacted] does not know the exact reason, but speculates that it is in conjunction with "a" above.)

c. The new programming effort for computer support for [redacted] is to be flexible enough to be able to incorporate all subsequent satellite programs.

d. His position as Director, Satellite Ops, is deteriorating rapidly due primarily to the split between Air Force and CIA people on the NRO staff with the Air Force representatives being strongly anti-Agency. [redacted] is aware of this, but has taken no action to correct it.

2. [redacted] also attributes the following observations to [redacted]

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a. The Agency is too ambitious and is going to force a complete breakdown of the NRO which will result in everything presently within the NRO accruing to DOD/AF. This "coup" will culminate with the Air Force withdrawing all support from the Agency. [REDACTED] predicts this within the next couple of months.

b. That the "CORONA problem" could be solved if the Agency would assign [REDACTED] to the West Coast under [REDACTED] role.) [REDACTED] did not define

3. I passed the above information to the DDCI verbally.

Albert D. Wheelon

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

cc: DDCI

[REDACTED]