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File
[REDACTED]
Committee

[REDACTED]

17 November 1970



MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

THROUGH : [REDACTED]

SUBJECT : Schedule for Procurement of Additional
CORONA Systems

1. The most critical element from a schedule standpoint of the CORONA procurement is the camera subsystem. The Camera contractor has estimated twelve months will be required to set up tooling, initiate long-lead procurement, and rehire and reassign personnel and produce a J-3 Camera system. His estimate is based on being able to obtain from present staffing 35 program critical people who have existing active clearances. All critical tooling is available and will only required reinstallation and minor refurbishment. Eighteen of the most critical long-lead time items have been identified and the vendors of these items have been contacted to assure delivery availability. All key vendors have their tooling available for an additional production.

2. It should be recognized that the contractor's estimates are undoubtedly optimistic considering the time that it has taken in the past to manufacture and test a camera system on an established production line. This optimism is based on the contractor's present need for new business and on his hope to maintain a CORONA procurement program which will allow him additional opportunity to sell such systems elsewhere. It is the estimate of the Project Office that three-six months additional time will be required to get all of the necessary personnel cleared and on the program, to reset tooling and re-install test facilities, and to procure all of the material and parts to build the systems. The normal production cycle has been twelve months when all of these elements were in place and in operation.

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3. In addition to the time required for the manufacture and test of the camera system at Itek, an additional five months is required for mating and testing in the field. Thus, on the contractor's estimate, the earliest system availability would be seventeen months assuming an immediate go-ahead. In considering the problems in building up both personnel and facilities to build and test these systems, a more logical time is twenty to twenty-four months. Some shortening of this time could be obtained by the addition of funds to provide extra shift and overtime work. Under the most ambitious program, a period from initiation of go-ahead to system availability would be optimistically eighteen months.

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