

27 March 1958

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Security Officer

SUBJECT : Report on CORONA Meeting, 26 March 1958

1. On 26 March 1958, the undersigned attended the scheduled conference of the CORONA group at the Villa Hotel in San Mateo, California. The meeting commenced at 0930 hours, with the attached list of people in attendance.

2. This meeting was held in the Pacifica A Conference Room and although the general security of the room was far from desirable, by remaining constantly on the alert and cautioning everyone in attendance to speak in rather a low voice, it is felt the meeting accomplished without any security compromise.

3. As you are aware, certain members of the group at this meeting were also present at meetings on the same subject on the 24th and 25th of March. The purpose of the meeting on the 26th was to set forth and discuss what had been accomplished in the earlier meetings.

4. Mr. O'Green of Lockheed Aircraft Corporation opened the meeting and discussed with the aid of charts the schedule problems concerning the overt aspects of the program. Following Mr. O'Green's discussion, Mr. Plummer discussed the ~~schedule~~ *schedule* and planning of the covert phase of the program.

5. The entire meeting was more-or-less under the chairmanship of Mr. Plummer. Some of the high-lights were as follows:

6. The schedule for the CORONA program as it was presented involves a count-down covering a period of nineteen weeks. This count-down will commence somewhere around the first of July. Under

~~TOP SECRET~~

(1)

the current plans, it is expected that the equipment will be assembled, tested, and the first vehicle launched during this nineteen week period, which means, of course, that the manufacturing of the equipment must be accomplished prior to 1 July.

7. The group is planning at this time on ten vehicles plus three additional ones if they can be obtained within this time limit. Discussions were held concerning the most advantageous location for both the launchings and the recovery. It was generally agreed during the meeting that probably all the launchings could most effectively be made from the area of Cook Air Force Base. However, it was not definitely decided whether to recover the satellite in the Atlantic or the Pacific. It was Lockheed's view that the Pacific would be more advantageous while the General Electric representatives and certain others felt that the recovery should be in the Atlantic. Mr. Bissell informed the group he felt the recovery problem should receive further consideration and that a firm decision should not be made at this time.

8. Mr. Plummer, during his presentation, indicated that since they first began consideration of the program, they have investigated the possibility of utilizing the following shapes for the satellite:

- (a) Football
- (b) Cigar
- (c) Sphere

They finally decided, for the original drawings at least, on a form similar to a football, but a little more elongated with extra space on each end to correct the center of gravity.

9. During the meeting, the discussion got into the need for immediate contractual arrangements with the various suppliers, which Mr. Bissell indicated would involve his asking Mr. Kuera to visit with them and discuss these arrangements beginning next week. However, he indicated to them that he was faced with the problem at present of being broke, and in order to obtain the necessary finances to get the program underway, he would need the estimates from all the suppliers as soon as possible. The suppliers indicated that they would be able to furnish these estimates by next week.

which all agreed has to be geared to the technical and operational time-table.

- (1) General physical security problems within each of the suppliers.

12. For your information, concerning Point (c), there was some discussion in the group concerning the technical difference between the overt and covert capsule, both at the point of entering into orbit and while remaining in orbit. I feel that at some later date we should further explore this problem to prepare a suitable long-range cover story.

13. In reference to Point (d), Mr. Bissell indicated by his silence that he agreed with this need and gave the impression to the group that he was going to explore this very soon, probably when he returned to Washington, to get the Commo arrangements underway.

14. Concerning Point (h), the undersigned indicated to the suppliers in private discussions that he was attempting to complete each clearance processing by thirty days following our receipt of a request. In addition, each of the suppliers was questioned concerning their proposed clearance needs for the future. All the suppliers seemed to be greatly confused in this area. None of them seemed to be able to accurately estimate his needs since the details of work-load are still not firm. However, I did get the estimate of approximately 64 additional people for Lockheed, of which [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] estimated approximately six additional people that they could force at present. General Electric (Clayson and [REDACTED]) estimated approximately ten additional people. All agreed that they would start immediately determining the identities of these individuals and would forward the PSQ's to us through the established Post Office box. All agreed they would establish their own Post Office boxes in the very near future to be used as return addresses.

15. In addition to the points outlined above, the undersigned noted there seemed to a large problem area concerning the acquisition of space to perform the work. Mr. Plummer indicated to the undersigned that Lockheed has an option on some space

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[REDACTED]

However, at this point neither Mr. Plummer nor [REDACTED] has seen the space nor do they at this time know how they are to handle the security aspects involved. Both the Fairchild and General Electric groups indicated that they have space under consideration but neither acquisition has been finalized. Everyone concerned was told that the facilities they selected would be subject to a security inspection and that probably at that time further consideration would be given to the cover explanation they are to use.

16. In summary, it is the undersigned's observation that this program, as presented in this meeting, is a highly complex project; one which could, in a very few weeks, triple or quadruple in size. For this reason, it is felt that very close contact with each of the contractors involved must be maintained least we lose security control over the activity.

17. At the meeting, a copy of the CORONA roster was presented to Mr. Bissell, Colonel Ode, Mr. Clausen, Mr. Plummer and [REDACTED]. Each was informed that we are going to make every effort to see that they always had such a roster and that it was as up-to-date as possible.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Meeting - 26 March 1958

J. W. Plummer

[REDACTED]

F. W. O'Green

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

J. M. Clausen

H. W. Paige

[REDACTED]

O. J. Ritland

[REDACTED]

R. M. Bissell, Jr.

M. E. Oder

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

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AFBMD

LAC

CIA

AFBMD

AFBMD

AFBMD

Fairchild

Fairchild

CIA

LAC