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11 March 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, R&D, Development Projects Division
Mr. Eugene P. Kiefer, Development Projects Division
Security Officer, Development Projects Division

SUBJECT : Final Report of 117L Advisory Committee

REFERENCE : Memorandum for DD/P, dated 24 February 1959,
from Director, PIC [REDACTED]

1. Herewith is the report rendered in early February by [REDACTED] Chairman of the WS-117L Advisory Committee. Having attempted only to glance at it I became sufficiently interested to read it through. Mr. Kiefer may find it interesting as background but it has little to offer by way of analysis or recommendations which would have any bearing on our activities.

2. I do however again invite [REDACTED] attention to a grave security problem that seems to me to be revealed in this report. The report makes perfectly clear that two documents therein referred to as references 1. and 2. were made available to the Committee members. The second of these is a memorandum signed by General Walsh with which I am entirely familiar. Before this paper was made available to any unwitting persons, we gave our assent to its wider circulation after I had satisfied myself that it contained nothing seriously revealing about CORONA. On the other hand reference 1. is an ARPA memorandum which I have also seen and which I believe should probably not have been circulated to persons unwitting of CORONA. The reason is that this paper strongly emphasizes, if I remember it correctly, that a THOR boosted reconnaissance satellite with recoverable payload is in production. Given this information many informed persons will inevitably recognize that the DISCOVERY series is in fact a reconnaissance operation. This Committee report seems to demonstrate, therefore, that a highly revealing paper was circulated to extremely well informed and curious individuals who have never been cleared for CORONA. [REDACTED] will remember that I called his attention to this possible security breach several months ago. I believe he will wish to follow-up on this and I would appreciate some report at his convenience.

Attachment: [REDACTED]
cc: [REDACTED]

R/M
RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
DD/P

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