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13 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : [redacted] Briefing on CORONA

Date - 10 November 1964 09:00-16:00

Place - Englewood - SSD Complex

Agency Personnel Present:

[redacted]
[redacted]

James H. McDonald

Lt. Col. Verne Webb

Chairman - [redacted]

- (a) Other [redacted] Personnel, Including Lt. Col. Murphy, [redacted], etc.
- (b) [redacted] Personnel - 7
- (c) HRO Staff - Maj. Johnson
- (d) ITEX Personnel - [redacted]
- (e) Lockheed - [redacted]
- (f) GE - [redacted] etc.
- (g) NPIC - [redacted]

1. The meeting was held in a crowded, poorly ventilated room in the SSD Complex. [redacted] took a position at the near center of its long table with Murphy on his right and the [redacted] personnel at that end. I sat at [redacted] left with [redacted] Webb, and McDonald to my left. Thus we shared the center of the stage with [redacted].

2. The meeting was opened by [redacted]. He stated that "in response to Dr. McMillan's interest in reinstating the suppliers meetings" he had called this group together. Since they had not been

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held for some time he indicated that this one would be more technical and comprehensive than normal. He then turned the podium over to [REDACTED] (LMSC) to present a 6 months program review (we had been provided with a copy of all charts presented).

3. [REDACTED] proceeded to go through a laborious, painstaking review of all the minutia of the last six months, including complete failure analysis, diagnosis, ad nauseum. The other presentations were equally detailed.

4. On infrequent occasions [REDACTED] raised questions as to the validity of the deductions made and his comments were listened to respectfully and with deference. In most cases, [REDACTED] indicated that he agreed with [REDACTED] and would require further information before he would authorize go-ahead.

5. Whenever a really penetrating issue was inadvertently uncovered such as the use of the yaw programmer, soft spot analysis, Pirani gauges, etc., [REDACTED] would let the argument develop briefly and would then very quietly say that these matters should receive the full attention of a smaller group and should not be pursued further in that conference. In all these instances [REDACTED] seemed to the degree of determining that real problem understanding was missing and then having established the location of the only expertise at the conference, smoothly accepted [REDACTED] suggestions for a deferred consideration.

6. At the termination of the status report, [REDACTED] took the floor to present the "Philosophy and Purposes of Program [REDACTED]". He listed several items and then turned the meeting over to [REDACTED] of [REDACTED] to further amplify and he left the room. He listed six interesting items:

- (1) Overall system specifications - [REDACTED] was to be charged with the responsibility of preparing the top spec and assuring that subsidiary specs were prepared by the associate contractors.

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- (2) Reliability model - Such a model is to be prepared so as to determine where it is economical and practical to put emphasis. [redacted] responsibility -
- (3) Procedure review - A test matrix is being set up. Questions which could then be answered are (a) Are we over testing? (b) Are we wearing out equipment? (c) Are we negating our test results?
- (4) Design reviews - Will be instituted on a one per month schedule as an agenda item.
- (5) Quick reaction capability - Integration contractor must not turn around time for greater readiness. See how long R-1 can be held. May mean having more than one padded at a time.
- (6) Investigation of low circular orbits -

[redacted] elucidation created quite a few questions. Lt. Col. V. Webb indicated he would cut the R time down appreciably now. His inputs into what could be done efficiently at the present time had not been previously solicited by [redacted].

7. The discussions which followed indicated how extensively CORONA growth considerations were being considered. To get circular orbits, different orbital inclinations, etc., may require consideration of a new booster family. Introduction of a new battery could save enough weight to permit installation of the heavy ISI and a new program, etc.

8. [redacted] joined the meeting and indicated he was interested in a technique to channel ideas for change so as to minimize effective implementation. His chart had five headings:

- (a) Ideas for improvement - Anyone can suggest
- (b) Submit to Program Office - This office will:
 - (1) Validate - Estimate feasibility

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- (2) Prepare RPO's -
- (3) Require system integration contractor to evaluate methodology and impact of incorporation into system
- (4) Final review by SE [REDACTED]
- (5) Program Office recommendation
- (6) D/ISG approval
- (7) Issuance of necessary technical directives

8. At this point [REDACTED] started to flip over one of the many remaining charts on his chart stand. The first was his organization and he dropped the cover quickly and adjourned the meeting.

10. I asked him to discuss the items which he had deferred. He led us to his office and [REDACTED], Murphy, [REDACTED] and I had an informal discussion there. [REDACTED] indicated he would call a payload meeting to discuss items such as the following:

- (1) Yaw programmer - Is the DC bias now being removed? If not, can it be done readily? How much degradation is caused by the other component of earth's motion? Is it measurable? Would the proposed correction degrade system reliability?
- (2) Pitch gauge utilization - What further data can be acquired in this manner? What is the status on study to investigate use of other gauges?
- (3) CORONA - Passive methods used. Is the problem solved? Evidence - Active suppression effectiveness -

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- (4) Soft spot analysis
- (5) System performance study - What is its scope? What is the task assignment? Who is charged with the role (ITEX has a partial role)? - Progress - Reports
- (6) Results of study on justification for life boat - Could that weight be saved and put, in part at least, into a more reliable primary system?

11. In all these cases and throughout the meeting, [REDACTED] remained in control and was open to discussion and consultation. He deferentially listened to any Agency comments. He believes (as in Murphy) that he is responsible for all payload directions as well as other aspects of the system. He feels operational control which Webb is trying to maintain (via CIA and SCC) is part of [REDACTED] domain. Probably feels it came down with Murphy. He plans to exercise that control until told otherwise.

SIDEARS: -

1. The industrial groups had been called in on 9 November and were "dry runned" by [REDACTED] staff in preparation for the meeting. No skeletons were uncovered in front of us. I assume that a "no surprise" rule was in order.

2. Webb, although he did not appear to recognize it, is "persona non grata" to [REDACTED].

3. [REDACTED] believes he has an operational program and is not interested in the type CORONA improvement program being pushed by [REDACTED]. He is interested in hardware improvements. [REDACTED] suggested he should interest himself and [REDACTED] appeared receptive.

4. [REDACTED] participation was minimal - Their personnel not impressive except in numbers.

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5. The Agency was really the guest of honor although [redacted] indicated this was the re-institution of the old suppliers meetings. They held up the meeting whenever [redacted] and I were both unavailable.

6. [redacted] made it very clear to Murphy at lunch that the Agency position was that it had control and direction of the payload.

7. [redacted] appears to be a capable administrator with enough technical understanding and judgment to indicate that if given an adequate charter he could do a good operational job.

[redacted]
- SPS/DD/S&F -
[redacted]

Distribution:

[redacted]
[redacted]

O/DDS&F/SPS/[redacted] (13 Nov. 1964)

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