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*Chernov*



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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

13 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. Reber and [REDACTED]  
re NRO Problems and Issues

Subject Participation by [REDACTED], and [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] commenced the presentation by outlining our present predicament on CORONA, namely the fact that we are proceeding with the Itek camera improvement program; however, the NRO has restrained us from conducting necessary complementary efforts at Lockheed and G.E. The present lack of funding instructions to Lockheed and G.E. has caused program slippage and we are presently in a day-for-day slip. Moreover, if we do not commence now on the improvement program then we will also have to order present systems to cover the delayed launching. [REDACTED] did not necessarily share with the urgency. He said that he doubted that we can make the dual improvement stellar index schedule anyway. His entire manner was obviously one to delay decision on his part until his overall strategy in the program could be sorted out. Throughout the entire meeting [REDACTED] never offered a constructive approach, nor did he take the opportunity to set forth his views on how he thought the CORONA program should be run. Instead, he preferred to sit back and let the Agency postulate its position, then he would comment on the specifics. As far as CORONA operations are concerned, he agreed that it would be best to have a Chief and Deputy Chief over a Joint Operations Center at the STC, with either a CIA or an Air Force individual in

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HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
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either role. His comments indicated that he obviously favored the Air Force as having the Chief's position, since he did not feel that the Agency man should comment on the boosters and other Air Force-paid activities; i.e., tracking, launch, recovery, etc. He also appeared to be dragging his feet in conceding that the Agency should be responsible for the recovery vehicle buckets in the CORONA program.

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9.11.11 11:47:10 We pointed out to [REDACTED] that we did not feel it should be the Agency's action to advise the Air Force camera contractors that the competition for the new search system was still on; but, inasmuch as Secretary McMillan had already indicated that [REDACTED] had been selected to build the new search, that the onus was upon Dr. McMillan to unglue this decision with [REDACTED] [REDACTED] [REDACTED] agreed wholeheartedly and indicated that he would take necessary steps to so advise [REDACTED]. He also emphasized that he felt that the company who won the [REDACTED] program could not possibly do the follow-on search. He further allowed that the [REDACTED] proposal on [REDACTED] looked the most promising although a final decision has as yet to be made.

  
JOHN N. McMAHON