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22 January 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CORONA

Attached is a copy of your letter re the proposed CORONA agreement. [redacted] advised me that only he and Dr. McMillan have seen this. He asked me to reassure you that (1) he was optimistic in feeling that Dr. McMillan would sign the agreement that we had worked out over the weekend, and there was no intent to "sand bag" you; (2) [redacted] and Dr. McMillan had their first chance to discuss it at length on the 14th; and (3) Dr. McMillan agrees with the intent of the document as explained to him by [redacted] but feels there is some ambiguity in the language and that this document is too important for any ambiguity to be allowed.

[redacted]
Chief, Special Projects Staff
Directorate of
Science and Technology

Robert W. Howard
Attachments

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MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT

SUBJECT: CORONA

1. This agreement between the Director, National Reconnaissance Office, and the Deputy Director of Central Intelligence is based upon policy guidance from the Deputy Secretary of Defense and the Director of Central Intelligence.

2. The CORONA Program is a national endeavor involving the United States Air Force and the Central Intelligence Agency within the purview of the National Reconnaissance Program. In order to focus and strengthen the participation of the Central Intelligence Agency in the CORONA Program and to ensure a mechanism for sound overall management, the following decisions are effective at once:

a. A single authoritative program manager for CORONA is in the national interest and this manager is the Director, [redacted] reporting directly to the D/NRO. The program manager is responsible to the D/NRO for the successful prosecution of the CORONA Program, for overall technical direction, and for the direction of the field operations, responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center.

b. All CIA technical and contractual activities in the CORONA Program will be consolidated under a senior CIA representative who will report to and be located in the Offices of the Director, [redacted]. Specifically, the senior CIA representative will be responsible for the following:

(1) Provide technical direction for the CORONA payload. By payload it is understood to include the cameras, film transport mechanism, and associated items peculiar to the camera system.

(2) Be the single authoritative point of contact within the Government for CIA - let CORONA contracts (specifically including LMSC, GE, and ITEK) for technical direction, contracting, and security. He will

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be responsible for ensuring proper contractor performance and compliance. This relationship will govern both the receipt of contractor proposals for product improvement and the issuance of new directives. It is understood that technical decisions and directions on system elements not peculiar to the payload (for example, certain re-entry vehicle components) may well come from [REDACTED] through the senior CIA representative.

(3) Be the Payload Member of a CORONA System Configuration Control Board reporting to the Director, [REDACTED]

(4) Be the Chairman of a CORONA Payload Configuration Control Board reporting directly to the Director, [REDACTED]

(5) Control and direct the personnel and functions of the AP facility at Palo Alto, including the payload systems integration effort.

3. [REDACTED] will provide systems engineering services for the CORONA Program in accordance with current contracts. Required interface between [REDACTED] and the CIA contractors will be accomplished under the guidance of and/or in coordination with the senior CIA representative, as appropriate.

4. The Palo Alto AP facility will continue to provide software support to the CORONA Program (for example, nominal and actual ephemeris computation, camera programming, etc.) as it has in the past. In this respect, the AP facility will be directly responsive to the NRO Satellite Operations Center for target requirements during both preparatory and on-orbit operations. In addition, the assets available at the AP will continue to be available for support of operations analysis.

Marshall S. Carter

Marshall S. Carter
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

12 Jan 1965
Date

Brockway McMillan
Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Date [REDACTED]
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