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21 FEB 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director, OSA

SUBJECT: Camera Settings for Reconnaissance Satellites

1. Recently a point of contention has arisen between the Agency and SSD pertaining to camera settings for the first LANYARD mission. It would appear that as future improved photographic satellites, Agency controlled, are developed, the same problem will occur; therefore, it is appropriate to determine Agency policy in this regard now.

2. The first LANYARD mission has always been considered a combination of Engineering and Operational mission with maximum accommodation to the engineering aspects without degrading operational capabilities. However, it is difficult to divide a mission of this type along strictly Engineering and Operational lines. The contention that has arisen revolves around the camera settings and film and who has the prerogative to establish same. SSD maintains that they have the final say and, of course, we would like to select that combination of camera settings and film that would achieve the best operational results. Unfortunately, the combination that SSD has selected does not meet the operational requirements. They are highly concerned about IMC problems and have selected a film and shutter speed that will insure the highest probability of stopping IMC motion but will consequently reduce useful solar illumination to above twenty degrees and degrade resolution of the remaining take. Development Branch is familiar with the technical reasons involved in this matter and can brief these in detail, if desired. It appears, from a resolution standpoint, results which will be obtained using the SSD camera settings and film will not be of appreciably higher quality than that presently realized from our MURAL operations. With only five launches scheduled, an immediate intelligence degrading of twenty per cent of the planned capability is significant.

3. Our policy as regards CORONA/MURAL operations has been that technically qualified Headquarters personnel select the optimum camera settings and film for a particular mission to

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achieve best results considering both operational and R and D requirements. [redacted] is then directed through operational [redacted] traffic to use these settings. I believe the same procedure should be adopted for LANYARD and other subsequent Agency controlled photo satellite operations.

4. As I understand, control of the LANYARD Program is vested in the Director of Program B (LANYARD) who should have the final say in resolving conflicts such as described above. Request policy guidance on this problem.

(Signed) [redacted]

[redacted]  
Lt. Colonel USAF  
Chief, Operations Division, OSA

CONCUR:

JOHN PARANGOSKY,  
Chief, Development Division, OSA

cc: OSA/DF  
OSA/C/PS  
OSA/OD/COR [redacted]  
Distribution:

"I have agreed to let SSD determine 1st flight settings (1/200 at 65°N). We will determine follow on flights. [redacted]"

"Above concurred in by DDR and DD/OSA."

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