

1 FEB 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Space Council Meeting

The Space Council met on February 14 and I attended as the DOD representative.

During the discussion of the agenda item on MOL-AAP duplication, Ambassador Bohlen, State replacement for Ambassador Kohler, questioned whether MOL had been approved by USIB or his committee (NSAM 156 Committee) to review the value of MOL to the reconnaissance program.

I explained to him that the USIB was a requirements group and that they did not approve the programs selected for fulfilling the requirements.

I further explained to him that his committee should concern themselves with the national policy on how much information on MOL should be surfaced and how fast.

I suggested that we brief Mr. Bohlen on the MOL program as soon as possible.

Several aspects of Mr. Bohlen's comments cause me grave concern.

First, I am not sure he understands the responsibilities of the NSAM 156 Committee. I would like for you to take the DOD responsibility for explaining the workings of the NSAM 156 Committee.

Second, Mr. Bohlen seemed to be uninformed on current MOL status and in general expressed similar opposition to the program that we have heard Mr. Helms express from time to time.

I stated that the program value and scope were reviewed in detail and endorsed by Mr. McNamara, Mr. Schultze, Mr. Vance, Dr. Brown and Dr. Hornig before the President announced the initiation of MOL. I further stated that since the program was

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initiated it has been reviewed by me continuously and that I felt the program was valuable to the future reconnaissance requirement.

I also stated that I believe Dick Helms and Mr. Bohlen are the only ones remaining to be convinced on the importance of MOL to National Defense.

I would like for you to attend the MOL briefing for me. It has been scheduled for Mr. Bohlen's office, Room 7207, State Department, at 1500, February 16. I have been informed by Mr. Packard, State, that all State personnel in attendance will have the necessary special clearance.

Mr. Packard was given the suggestion that this would be a good time to update Under Secretary Katzenbach on MOL if it is convenient for him. If he does not attend it might be well if a MOL briefing were arranged for him as soon as possible.

John S. Foster, Jr.
John S. Foster, Jr.

Al,
Discussed this with
McNamara & Witzel.
Paul would like to accompany
us to the session with Bohlen.

W
T.