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(8) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.



THE NRO STAFF

September 24, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ALLEN

Col Buzard called from Boston, where he and accompanying Mr. Sorrels on his visit to Itek. Col Buzard's problem was as follows: They were at Itek for the express purpose of discussing the HEXAGON SI camera and all of a sudden were told by Mr. Sorrels that what he really wanted to discuss at Itek was the CORONA program and how it was going. Neither Col Buzard nor felt they had any authority to permit such discussions since it was not the expressed purpose of their visit and were asking our guidance.

I explained our general feeling on this to Col Buzard, knowing full well that this would not help; and indicated that I would attempt to contact you for guidance. Sorrels then got on the phone and explained that he should have mentioned these particular discussions when he was arranging the visit but had "forgotten to mention it" and really saw no reason for his not being permitted to discuss the CORONA subject with Itek. I reminded him of the rules and the requirement that he indicate the topics he wishes to discuss at the various places prior to his visit. He responded, expressing dissatisfaction generally and saying that our objections in these instances made him very angry. As rationale to support his request, he added that while he was on the West Coast he was able to visit TRW twice and no such restrictions were imposed on his discussion of other subjects. I told him that this was all fine and dandy except that it didn't excuse his not apprising us initially of his desires, so that the decision could be made in the proper context.

HEXAGON CORONA



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I told Col Buzard, when he returned to the phone, that I would check it out, and call him back. I then called you at NPIC and followed through with the suggestion that I call John McMahon. John's reaction was quite similar to yours, that is, he was quite displeased in that he felt that "Sorrels is simply headhunting and this is another instance in which the same old thing happens, i.e., he revises his interests on site and attempts to discuss subjects which were not previously advertised as a part of his itinerary." John's guidance was essentially a reluctant, "Well, he really is conducting the trip under your auspices, so if Lew doesn't have any real objections, I guess it is OK for him to discuss the CORONA program." I called Col Buzard back. He had on the phone with him. I explained to both our general feelings, then authorized them to proceed with the discussions.

I agree with you that it is essential that we speak to Charlie Sorrels about this kind of thing. I am sure John McMahon also agrees.

WILLIAM R. YOST Lt Colonel, USAF



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