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~~ISI~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 20, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with John Crowley on Friday, May 16, 1969

The purpose of John's visit was mainly to assure me that he was trying to stay in channels as they presented their case for the [redacted] system to the Land Panel. He reminded me of Don Steininger's call to me in which Don wondered whether it was alright for him to work directly with Crowley and company in preparing material for the Land Panel.

We discussed the tight schedule of HEXAGON and he said that he felt that although it was tight that we were still not in any trouble. I also raised the question of whether it might not be safer to buy a few more CORONAs so as not to have to be so dependent on holding the HEXAGON schedule. He said that any extra money should be used to keep HEXAGON on schedule rather than to buy insurance in the form of two or three more CORONAs. I must say I was not thoroughly convinced, and I would like to review this point further with the ExCom.

With respect to reordering on CORONA it appears that to meet a May 1971 launch date, we would need to order boosters now. The spacecraft reorder could be delayed until October-November. Reorder cost might be 40M for 3 CORONAs. The last CORONA is now scheduled for launch on [redacted] the three could be used for launching in January 1971, March 1971, June 1971 or we could stretch these out, depending upon developments.

I would like to see, and will ask General Berg to give me, a brief history of the early flights of CORONA and GAMBIT, to see how many such flights were made before we began to achieve success.

M.L.

John L. McLucas

CORONA HEXAGON
HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

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