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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

September 11, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. McCone on September 11, 1963

I delivered my report on the NRO actions related to the actions of the Purcell Board without discussion. I did mention that I had heard that the CIA people were making a study of possible ways to improve the CORONA M system, but that I had not had a report of their findings. Mr. McCone confirmed that such a study was being made and promised that we would be kept informed as to its findings.

I told Mr. McCone of the request from McGeorge Bundy to Secretary McNamara for a report on five recommendations which the President's Board had made at the time the present NRO agreement was under discussion. I stated that on one of these matters Dr. Fubini was reporting for Secretary McNamara in words very similar to those which Mr. McCone had already submitted to the Board. I further stated that two other recommendations to be commented on by Dr. Fubini related exclusively to internal matters of DOD. I told him that I was commenting for Mr. McNamara on the continuity of management within the NRO and on the relationship of NRO research and development activities to those of the military services.

It was agreed that I would make an appointment with Mr. McCone next week to discuss the NRO budget. In this connection Mr. McCone said that he was having his analysis made within the CIA of the quantitative amount of satellite photographic coverage that seemed appropriate. He made the statement that our recent series of successful missions had actually overloaded the intelligence estimators. I stated that I felt that the COMOR requirements document now in my hands for comment was not satisfactory; that it did not cover many issues important to a statement of requirements; and that it made

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engineering decisions and judgments that should not be made without the supporting kind of analyses that only the technical experts within the NRO and its contractors can provide. Mr. McCone I believe understood this kind of objection. He stated he felt that Mr. Reber and I should try to resolve these difficulties in the COMOR document without creating an open confrontation between the NRO and elements of the USIB. Mr. McCone agreed to consider putting me on the USIB and having a member of the NRO staff named as a member of COMOR.

Mr. McCone took a little time to discuss his views on relations between CIA and NRO. He made the following points:

1. He reiterated the statement he has previously made to Messrs. Gilpatric and Fubini that he felt the central issue is to be sure that all of the resources, both of the military services and the CIA, be brought effectively to bear on matters of importance to the NRO.
2. He said that he had been surprised when he learned the extent to which the NRO had actually been set up as a line or operating organization and was surprised to learn too of the special organizational arrangement under which General Greer operates. He expressed a desire to be informed on the background and history of this arrangement at some time.
3. He said that he was still not fully clear in his mind exactly how the Director NRO should work with CIA - whether he should work directly with Colonel Ledford or with an individual farther up in the organization, or perhaps with two individuals, depending on the matters at issue.

It was certainly clear in this latter discussion that Mr. McCone felt that in any case matters of policy significance or of major influence on CIA activities should be discussed with him or with General Carter prior to the initiation of any actions at the working level. Without his actually making this

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point, I volunteered my determination to see that this was always done and entered a mild apology should Mr. McCone feel that I had not adequately taken care of this in the past.

I withdrew my previous statement of reluctance to deal with Dr. Wheelon on NRO matters.

I described the present status of TAGBOARD management, noting the directive of June proposing transfer of technical direction to the Director of Program D, and noting that after what I thought was an agreement between General Carter and myself, I had issued a further directive detailing Colonel [REDACTED] to work with the CIA for a period of three months prior to the actual transfer of management. I stated in connection with this latter arrangement that I would certainly be willing to reconsider the transfer if after the three-month period there appeared to be reasons for such a reconsideration. Mr. McCone asked whether or not it was true that all of our contracts with Kelly Johnson were handled through the Agency. I stated that this was true; however, technical direction of the R-12 program rested in the hands of the Director of Program D. I pointed out that in transferring technical management of TAGBOARD I had no intention of changing the contractual arrangements. Mr. McCone asked whether it was not so that the TAGBOARD vehicle would be used by the military. I said I was sure it would be and that I believed that the original impetus for development of this vehicle had come from the Department of Defense. Mr. McCone volunteered that in fact he had been somewhat opposed to the initiation of its development at the time of the earliest discussions, although he was not opposed to it now. He said he felt that the problem of technical management of TAGBOARD was not a serious one and that he would talk to General Carter about it.

Brockway McMillan

BROCKWAY McMILLAN
Director

National Reconnaissance Office

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