

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20535

OFFICE OF
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

BYE 0255-64

Copy of

3 September 1964

Dr. Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office
Washington, D. C


Dear Brock:

We are moving forward with the FULCRUM feasibility program and plan to release the funded design competition contracts for the re-entry vehicle this week. The winner of this six-weeks competition will be funded for the duration of the Phase I effort and will be ultimately responsible for the final design study of the FULCRUM re-entry vehicle.

I gather that you intend to use the standard CORONA (Mark 5) capsule for the G-3 system, so it may be that FULCRUM is the only reason for a new re-entry vehicle. However, if you know of any other NRO system which requires a new re-entry vehicle, it will be necessary to know of it within the next few weeks, so that we do not design two capsules where one might have sufficed.

In judging the results of the actual RV competition, and in guiding the follow-on study activity, it would be extremely helpful to have available the results of other RV design studies conducted by the Air Force or NRO. Specifically, we should like to become thoroughly familiar with the Mark 3 design made by General Electric, even though this was never developed, and to understand the reasons for its cancellation. I should be most grateful if you could arrange this access under NRO aegis in the near future.

Sincerely,


Albert D. Wheelon
Deputy Director

cc: General Carter

series A Copy # 1