

December 10, 1965

EMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: CORONA Improvement Program

- 1. It is time again for the monthly "pilgrimage" on behalf of the COROMA Improvement Program. The choice is simple; either we immediately authorize CIA to contract for the 60" spacecraft and modifications to the RV's necessary to accommodate the DISIC (dual-head, improved stellar index camera), plus authorize SAFSP or CIA-OSP to contract for integration of the DISIC, or else delay the first launch of the rotator KH-4 from February 1967 to March 1967 and buy another J-1 payload (current version). A recent message (Tab A) from CIA requested authorisation to proceed on the rengining elements of the COROMA Improvement Program.
- 2. You will recall that the rotator KH-4 camera development was considered the pacing item toward a January 1967 launch date when go-sheed for its development was given in July 1965. Dr. McMillan did not authorize initiation of work on the larger-diameter psyload shell, MV's, etc, believing that the then-imminent new NRP Agreement might result in a large-scale realignment of CIA and SAFSP COMOMA responsibilities. Last month, the 60" psyload shell and RV modifications became the pacing items for the J-3 model, and we slipped the launch date for the first J-3 payload from January to February 1967 (Tab B).
- 3. I gather you share Dr. McMillan's desire to settle COROMA management responsibilities and clean-up the unsigned contract situation at the same time that release of the remaining CORONA Improvement Program items is given. I agree with the objective, but at the same time doubt that any decision on BAFSP/CIA-OSP management responsibilities for COMOMA will alter

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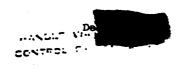
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radically the present contractual arrangements (i.e., CIA contracts for the cameras, camera payload shell, RV's, and their integration into a complete payload sub-assembly; meanwhile, SAFSP contracts for the boosters, launch services, AGEMA, and overall system integration/engineering, etc). If this premise is correct, then we could authorize the initiation of work on the remaining elements of the COROMA Improvement Program in advance of formalizing any management arrangements.

- 4. This early release of the remaining CIP items would require, however, that we settle one minor management issue. This pertains to the integration of the DISIC into the camera payload section. The development contract with Fairchild for this item is held by SAFSP AMPSP
- Improvement Program, SAFEP proposed to contract with LMSC for DISIC qualification and integration into the CPS. CIA-OSP countered with the recommendation that they hold both the development/production and integration contracts for the stellar index camera--as is the case with the current Itek SI camera. I don't believe it really makes any difference who holds the DISIC development/production contract, but do believe that the DISIC integration should be a part of the LMSC payload sub-assembly contract now held by CIA-OSP.
- 5. Accordingly, attached (Tab C) is a proposed message to SAFSP and CIA-OSP authorizing initiation of engineering/fabrication of the 60° CPS, modifications to the EV's (required for the DISIC), procurement of DISIC's (SAFSP), and integration of the DISIC (CIA-OSP) into the camera psyload sub-assembly.
- 6. However, if you do not wish to resolve even the DISIC issue, aside from the overall COROMA problem, and unless the latter can be accomplished in 2-3 days, then we must again slip the first launch date of the J-3 payload (from February to March 1967) and authorise CIA to procure an additional J-1 payload. Attached (Teb D) is a draft message which would accomplish this.

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7. I feel we would be on very "thin ice" with the ExCom if it became necessary to explain further slippage in the introduction of the J-3 model (Rotator Camera). In any event, I am opposed to further slippage because this is a worthwhile improvement. I recommend, therefore, that you authorize release of the message attached as Tab G.

Signs_

James T. Stewart Brigadier General, USAF Director, NBO Staff

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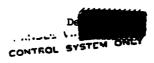
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Reference Subject is COROMA Improvement Program.

- 1. CIA-OSP is authorized to amend its existing LMSC contract to accomplish necessary engineering, fabrication, and payload integration effort for J-3 configuration to meet first launch date of February 1967. This includes integration of the DISIC into the psyload sub-assembly.
- 2. CIA-OSP is authorized to smend its existing GE RV contract to accommodate the DISIC in the COROMA J-3 model.
- 3. SAFSP will procure sufficient production DISIC units to meet J-3 requirements.
- 4. Above actions are temporary expedients and should not be construed as a solution to on-going CORCNA management discussions. Additionally, specific guidance on the unsigned contracts with LMSC will be provided in the near future.

TOP SECTION TAB C

7010-65 (Stewart to Flax re CIP)

- C. draft message "Ref
- "New projected launch date D. draft message to for C J-3 is March 67...pel Ls authorized to take necessary contractual actions ... "