24 November 1958

SUBJECT: Project CORONA (E).

TO: Commander
Air Research & Development Command
Andrews Air Force Base, D.C.

1. This letter transmits information relating to Project CORONA which may be helpful to you in accomplishing the actions requested in my letter of 19 November, subject as above.

2. A meeting was held in this office, this date, with Mr. Richard M. Bissell, Jr of CIA during which the following occurred:

   a. Mr. Bissell reaffirmed CIA's responsibilities for Project CORONA to be:

      (1) Over-all security.

      (2) Covert procurement.

      (3) The preliminary physical processing of the product. (This is considered to be essential not only for security reasons but to utilize the specialized processing equipments and techniques which the agency has effected through Eastman Kodak.)

   b. Mr. Bissell made reference to a memorandum which was written late last year or early this year which specified, among other things, CIA's role in Project CORONA, the fact that BMD would be the agency responsible for research and development, integration, procurement, operation of the system, and established CIA-BMD relationships. A copy of this memorandum will be furnished this office and forwarded to you upon receipt.

   c. Mr. Bissell read my letter to you of 19 November, concurred in the objectives sought therein, and agreed to work with your representatives in furtherance of these objectives. He expressed the hope, however, that CIA's role in this particular activity and others of a
Ltr to Comdr ARDC, Subj: "Project CORONA (S)," dtd 24 Nov 58

similar nature would be progressively reduced and eventually be
limited to the receipt of the operational product as one of our
customers. We should help in achieving this.

d. In order to obtain maximum benefit from the product of
CORONA and subsequent systems, specialized equipments will be
required. Much of this equipment can be procured off the shelf.
Other equipment may have to be developed. The character and
amount of equipment required and the skills and numbers of people
required to operate it should be determined as early as practicable.
With this in mind, the Assistant Chief of Staff, Intelligence will be
read into Project CORONA and will work with CIA on this matter.
Major General James H. Walsh therefore should be included as one
of the persons in this headquarters with whom representatives of your
command may discuss CORONA. Your assessment of this project
should include inquiry as to adequacy of preparations to exploit fully
the product.

3. Attached hereto as Inclosure 1 is a copy of a memorandum from
Undersecretary MacIntyre to the Director of ARPA, dtd 17 Nov 58,
Subj: "FY '59 1171 Program."

4. Attached as Inclosure 2 is a draft reply to Inclosure 1 which
was furnished this headquarters for review as to adequacy prior to
signature and dispatch. This headquarters proposes to concur in the
attached memorandum with a request that agreements on funding referred
to in the fourth paragraph of the proposed memorandum be promptly
resolved.

5. Attached as Inclosure 3 is a proposed memorandum to the Secretary
of the Air Force, Subj: "Public Information - Project DISCOVERY," with
two attachments. This memorandum was referred to the Air Force for
review as to adequacy prior to dispatch. This memorandum and attach-
ments thereto are currently being reviewed along with efforts to develop
public relations policy guidance for Vandenberg AFB. USAF reaction
to the proposed memorandum and attachments will be communicated to
ARPA subsequent to 26 November. If you desire to comment upon either
of these matters, your thoughts will be appreciated.

3 Incls
As stated

Signed

JAMES E. SMART
Chief of Staff