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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

10/7/64
To - Dr. Fulmer -
Cable you directly
as necessary
6 October 1964

Dear Cy:

At recent NRO ExCom meetings (September 1st and September 10th), statements were made by the D/NRO that CIA contracting and other participation in the CORONA program was so dispersed that it required him or his staff to contact several offices and individuals to obtain information essential to him for the proper direction of the CORONA program.

I advised you, without commenting on the validity of this statement, that we would place a senior staff project officer (Mr. Crowley) on the West Coast in General Greer's organization and responsible to General Greer and that this project engineer would be in charge of all of CIA's contracting and other activities in connection with the CORONA program. At the same meeting it was agreed that the veto concept of the Configuration Control Board would be dispensed with and the Board would act in an advisory capacity to General Greer, who would be responsible for final decisions subject, of course, to the direction of D/NRO. Dr. McMillan would be responsible to you and me for the conduct of the program.

I agreed to prepare a memorandum for the Executive Committee and for Dr. McMillan proposing a working relationship between General Greer and Mr. Crowley and those assigned to assist him, and the purpose of this letter is to outline my concept of the arrangements.

On 10/7/64, Basically Mr. Crowley will be assigned to General Greer and will consider himself a part of General Greer's organization. He would be authorized to communicate with the Office of DD/S&T in CIA in Washington Headquarters to obtain advice, guidance and assistance from the staff here.

*relationship to security and
on local policy guidance*

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In examining CIA activities in connection with the contracting and security of the CORONA project, it is to be noted that the areas of responsibility are those indicated in the attached schematic diagram which I think is familiar to you. Every phase of the CIA activities encompassed in the orange square on the attached chart would become a responsibility of Mr. Crowley under the direction of General Greer. The contracts would remain as CIA contracts, which I believe essential to preserve security and continuity, and appropriate funding would be arranged by D/NRO through Program B to carry the program forward without interruption. OK

Carried in D/NRO Project. Proposed for CIA to operate to manage the [redacted] designed to be
Mr. Crowley, operating under General Greer's direction, would be specifically responsible for the following CIA activities: *to be built*
(and would provide a single point of contact which appears desirable, i.e.,)

- a. The payload contracts (Lockheed, ITEK, and GE) via the CIA contracting officer who would be located with him in General Greer's area. OK.
- b. The security of the payload through a CIA security man located in Los Angeles. *assigned to the [redacted] program*
- c. Two CIA technical people, who would be assigned to him to work in CORONA. *Why? Why?*
- d. The assembly, integration and checkout process and facility at Palo Alto where the payloads are assembled and tested. OK and change

In addition, Mr. Crowley, because of his background of experience together with the competence of the men who would be assigned to his staff, would I believe strengthen General Greer's organization and the NRO. OK

As I mentioned in our meetings, I believe that this organization must be usefully employed, otherwise it would be an extravagance and a waste of talent to assign them to General Greer. To accomplish this, I would suggest their participation should include, but not be limited to:

- a. Participation in all contractor/supplier meetings, across the system interfaces, such that the team responsible for payload development remains fully cognizant of total system status. *Solid [redacted] [redacted]*

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b. Recognition by the Aerospace Corporation
of Mr. Crowley's role in the ~~payload area~~.
Control System

c. Participation in the Configuration Control
Board, or whatever coordinating mechanism is
established to coordinate the system.

It is my considered judgment that the concentration of these activities in the hands of a man of Mr. Crowley's competence and under the direction of General Greer would significantly improve the satellite reconnaissance program and would be a further step in the utilization of the unique resources and skills capable of contributing to this program, which is a fundamental concept of the NRO. You can be assured of our enthusiastic support of this arrangement.

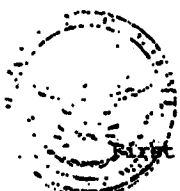
Sincerely,


John A. McCone
Director

Attachment - Diagram

Honorable Cyrus R. Vance
Deputy Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, D. C.

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THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE BYEMAN
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

First Memo is in CAL RR. Second Memo is not.

October 15, 1964

Dear John:

Thank you for your memorandum of October 6 in which you proposed to consolidate under General Greer the CIA responsibilities for security, contracting, and technical assistance in the CORONA program. The centralization of these functions under General Greer's immediate direction will be an important move in improving the management structure that now exists on this critical project.

We are in full agreement that there must be a single authoritative Program Director to whom we can assign responsibility for the successful conduct of the CORONA program. The consolidation that you propose will make it possible for General Greer, subject to the policies of the (S) DNRO, to exercise complete technical direction as well as over-all management control. Aerospace Corporation, as previously agreed, will perform the General System Engineering function.

We agree with your suggestion to form a CORONA Advisory Committee. We would propose to establish Colonel Paul Heran, CORONA Project Director, as Chairman, and ask Mr. Crowley to serve as Senior CIA representative; this Committee should also have one government representative from the A/P facility and one (S) NRO Staff representative. Additional advisory participation as appropriate could include CIA Headquarters, NFIC, ACIC, AMS, etc.

We agree that all proposed changes to the CORONA system should be referred to the CORONA Advisory Committee for evaluation and appropriate recommendations to General Greer, who will be responsible for approval or disapproval of minor changes. We believe that major changes should be reviewed and approved by the (S) DNRO before any directive action is taken. Technical directions on approved changes would be prepared by the CORONA Project Director and forwarded to the contractor(s) involved through the appropriate contracting officer(s).

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The effect of these arrangements would be to insure that, as we agreed on October 3, there will be a single authoritative representative of the Government for technical direction on the entire CORONA system (Re-entry Vehicle, Camera, Sub-structure, Agena, Booster, STC, and Recovery Forces). This will be General Greer's responsibility. In addition, consolidation of the CIA functions under Mr. Crowley, reporting directly to General Greer, will insure fully effective application of CIA resources.

We agree that your proposed plan for realignment of management controls of the CORONA program describes a positive step that we should take without delay.

With your concurrence, the (S) DNRO will meet with Mr. Crowley and General Greer and initiate with them preparation of detailed arrangements.

Sincerely,

Cyrus R. Vance

The Honorable John A. McCone

Director of Central Intelligence

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