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July 16, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Mr. McCone

Secretary McMillan and Mr. Kiefer met with Mr. McCone, 1500 hours, 16 July 1963, in Mr. McCone's office, to discuss the Purcell Report.

Mr. McCone expressed considerable enthusiasm over [redacted] photographs he had seen earlier this morning. He has [redacted] the appointment to show samples of [redacted] mission to the President at 1700 hours, Wednesday, or at an unspecified time Thursday of this week. He suggested that Secretary McMillan and Mr. Kiefer accompany him to very briefly outline NRO activities and relationship.

The satellite reconnaissance launch schedule for the immediate future was discussed in passing. Secretary McMillan noted that the next [redacted] mission now scheduled for 17 September, would be advanced as much as possible.

Secretary McMillan expressed his views on the conclusions of the Purcell Report. He expressed agreement with the principal points discussed in the Report and mentioned specifically his interest in image intensification, and in an item not mentioned in the Report, namely, a Dr. Baker suggestion for [redacted] photographic system usable in manned aircraft, and expressed his intent to invite Dr. Baker to Washington to discuss this suggestion in more detail and to ask Dr. Baker if he would serve as a consultant to the NRO.

Mr. McCone expressed interest in the MURAL improvement activity and raised the question of additional booster procurement for the LANYARD program. He expressed interest in the [redacted] developments and the activity relating to very large optical [redacted]. He expressed some reservations regarding the treatment in the report of satellite vulnerability and was particularly interested in

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the ability to maneuver in orbit. At this point, Secretary McMillan suggested we conduct a dual-burn experiment on the AGENA after capsule recovery as soon as possible in the MURAL program. Mr. McCone raised the question of possible special group consideration of a covert satellite study which is to be followed up by Mr. Kiefer.

Mr. McCone finally mentioned the last paragraph of the Purcell Report which comments on management organization and expressed his confidence that the organization as it now is constituted, is satisfactory.

Mr. McCone and Secretary McMillan agreed that as early as possible in September, a review would be prepared for the Purcell Committee containing a report on actions taken and studies underway.

Eugene P. Kiefer
Deputy Director
National Reconnaissance Office

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