

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

7 June 74

NOTE FOR MR. PLUMMER

I have been holding this waiting for comments from Buzz. I expect he will provide them by this afternoon; however, I thought you might want to take a look at the package.

[REDACTED] makes some substantive comments in Attachment 2 which you should review and possibly discuss with [REDACTED] Buzz and me.

[REDACTED]
John E. Kulpa, Jr.
Brig Gen, USAF

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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

6 June 1974

THE NRO STAFF

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. PLUMMER

SUBJECT: Phase-out of Program D

The memorandum at the right for the Chief of Staff outlines the phase-out of Program D. It cites your desires for the continuation of support to the NRO and the specialized management of the U-2 and SR-71 programs and solicits the Chief's thoughts.

I envision the process as proceeding in a step-wise fashion. Following an Air Force acceptance of the memorandum in principle an initial implementation step would be to transmit [redacted] letters signed by the Chief of Staff to the Commanders of SAC, AFLC, MAC and AFSC. These letters would outline the scope of the phase-out and express the need for continued support of the NRO and the U-2/SR-71 programs through the revised management scheme. Concurrently, normally classified correspondence relating to the U-2/SR-71 realignment would be signed to the various commanders praising the support given to AF/IGJ and requesting continued support. Underlying the correspondence would be the theme that the various activities conducted by AF/IGJ for the NRO and the Air Force will continue as they have in the past, but under different authorities.

The transition phase should be accomplished over a limited period of time. This period would permit the various relationships to be stabilized both within the NRO and the Air Force for the required levels of support. In addition, the time would be used for assuring a smooth transition of

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the financial activities associated with the phase-out of OSA as well as the realignment of Program D. I suggest the earlier date for completion of the phase-out and transfer of functions be October 1, 1974 and the latest date January 1, 1975.

I have attached comments from Colonel Bailey, General Bradburn, and Les Dirks.

John E. Kulpa, Jr.
Brigadier General, USAF

Attachments

- 1. Col Bailey's comments
- 2. [redacted] comments
- 3. Request to Brad & Dirks [redacted]
- 4. Brad's answer [redacted]
- 5. Dirks' answer [redacted]

HANDLE VIA [redacted]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

7 June 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR LT COP [REDACTED]

SUBJECT: Realignment of NRO Program D

Recommend the following changes be incorporated into the Memo for CSAF.

Revise paragraph 4 as follows:

Colonel Bernard L. Bailey, the Director of NRO Program D, also has a second, and openly acknowledged, job title as head of AF/IGJ on the Air Staff. In this capacity he reports directly to me as the Under Secretary of the Air Force. AF/IGJ provides specialized management of the Air Force U-2 and SR-71 programs and is designated officially the OPR for the Air Force U-2 and SR-71 programs. Special Air Staff reviews are conducted for both the U-2 and SR-71 with respect to programming and budgeting. These reviews are tailored along the same line as the specialized management structure which assures rapid response and a high degree of flexibility from both weapon systems.

Revise paragraph 7 as follows:

As far as realignment of responsibilities and management of the U-2 and SR-71, it is clear that special management arrangements have been advantageous and their retention is necessary if these systems retain their role in national crisis management and intelligence collection. However, I would prefer

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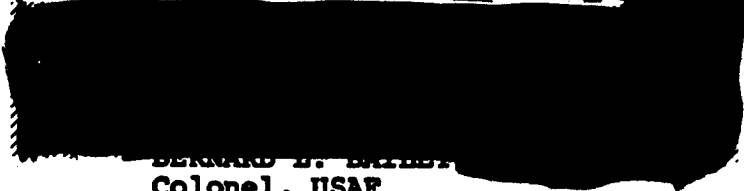
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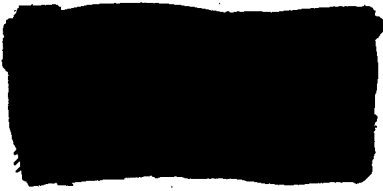
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that the direct reporting responsibility be changed from the Office of Under Secretary. The present arrangement under AF/IG has been working very satisfactorily, however, you may want to consider other arrangements. To assure a responsive system and retain the specialized management concept it is essential any realignment be at the senior Air Force office level.



BERNARD D. BAILEY
Colonel, USAF
Director, Program D

*I concur with Col. Bailey's
comments.*



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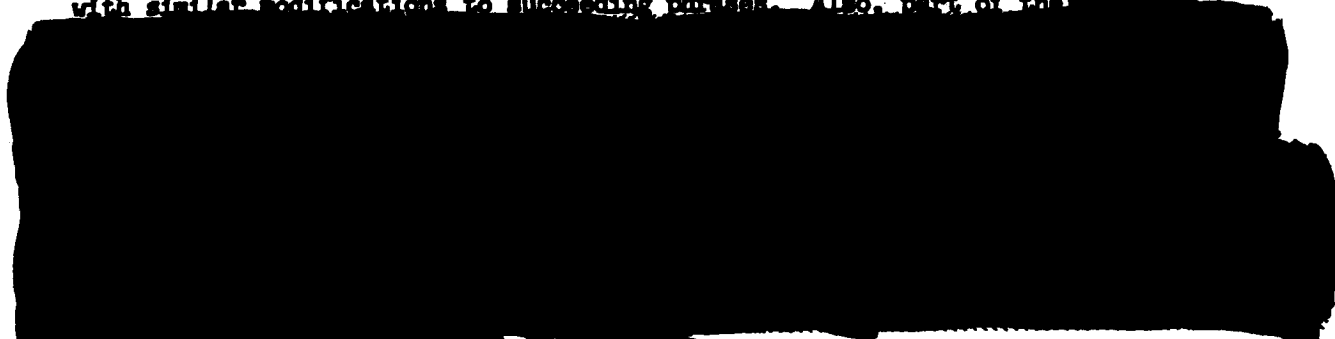
6 June 74

Comments on Proposed Memorandum for the Chief of Staff Re Realignment of NRO Program D

1. The opening paragraph has a planning assumption which is not presently factual. CIA has no specific date yet established for an actual transfer, and is relying on "no specific agreements with the [redacted] a new ambassador, etc." as reasons for delays. As of 1 July 74, the budgeting and funding responsibility will transfer, and Mr. Duckett has recently asked that the contracting be transferred, but in the meantime CIA has requested six months of FY 1975 funding for Idealist support (the four aircraft involved) from Air Staff funds, which indicates CIA planning to continue with U-2 operations beyond 1 July, and that when a transfer date is set, there will be months of effort involved. I suggest that "On July 1, 1974" be deleted, and "during FY 1975" be substituted, and that the later "program" management be changed to "budgeting/funding" management.

2. With respect to para. 2, Mr. Plummer said that NRO Staff should be in small letter "staff." Suggest also wording changes from "I have decided***" to "I am considering elimination of Program D as an NRO entity." with similar modifications to succeeding phrases. Also, part of the [redacted]

Maybe

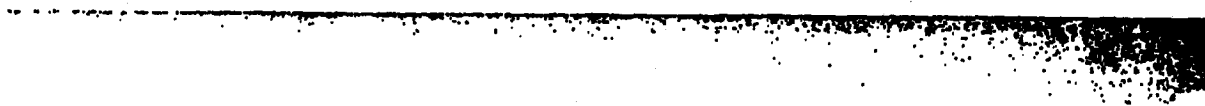


4. Re para. 5, add a sentence "These responsibilities will be financed entirely by the Air Force starting in FY 1975."

OK

5. Not addressed in the memo, but certainly to be considered, are the present responsibilities of Director D for such areas as Oxart/Tagboard storage, [redacted] sharing, fuel support thru a local detachment of SAAMA, etc. As I have said before, summary tables should be developed, which summarize each of Director D's present responsibilities, with columns for Budgeting/Funding, Contracting, Audit, Logistics Support, Operations, etc., and another chart or two that indicates what would happen to each under reorganization arrangements. Another facet is the imminent initial fund approvals for FY 1975, presently directed to Director D or IGJ (for U-2's), early contractual actions for [redacted] early instructions to the [redacted] for FY 1975 support, etc., which could be changed significantly by reorganization. In view of all the sort-outs necessary to move logically,

We should make a list of what is to be done for reorg



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I suggest an objective date of 1 July 76 (tying in to fiscal years) for effecting reorganizational changes, with concentrated planning and establishment of a firm Idealist aircraft transfer date to be established shortly.



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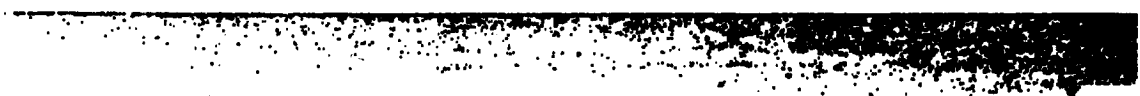
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PERSONAL EYES ONLY FROM GEN KULPA TO GEN BRADBURN AND
MR. DIPKS.

REFERENCE OUR PRIOR DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING CONSIDERA-
TIONS NOW BEING GIVEN TOWARD THE TERMINATION OF NRO
PROGRAM D. THE DNRO IS TENTATIVELY CONSIDERING THE
POSSIBILITY OF TRANSFERRING COMMON SUPPORT FUNCTIONS
FROM PROGRAM D INTO THE NRO STAFF. REQUEST YOU FURNISH
DIRECTLY TO ME THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION:

1. WHAT ARE THE SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS CURRENTLY
PROVIDED TO YOU BY PROGRAM D?
2. ARE THESE SERVICES AND FUNCTIONS STILL REQUIRED?
3. ANY THOUGHTS OR COMMENTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THIS
SUBJECT.

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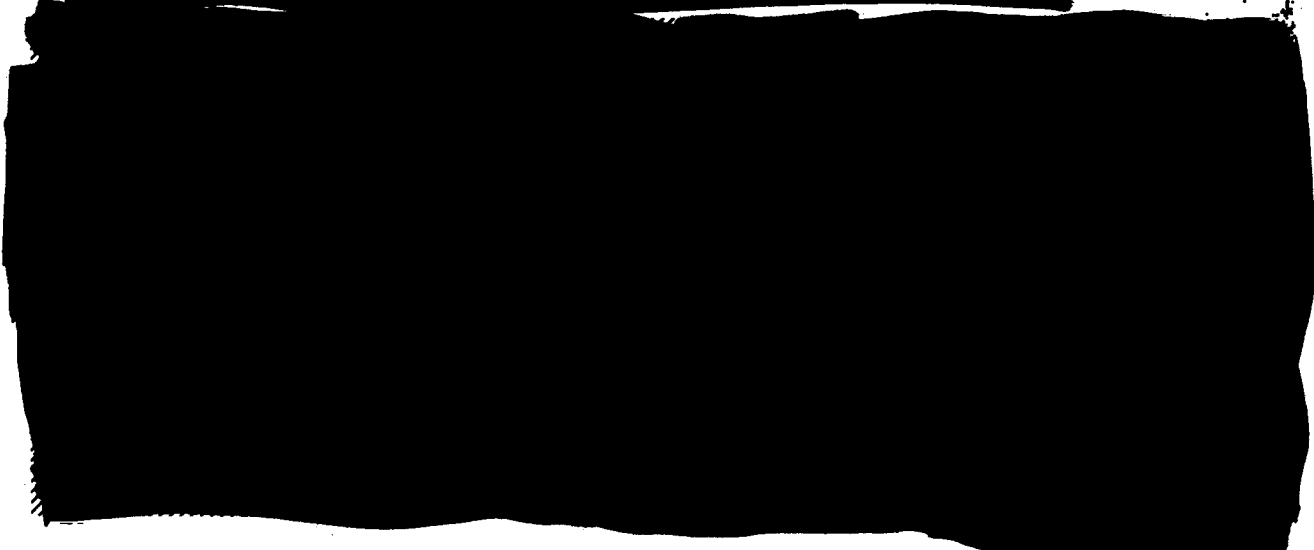
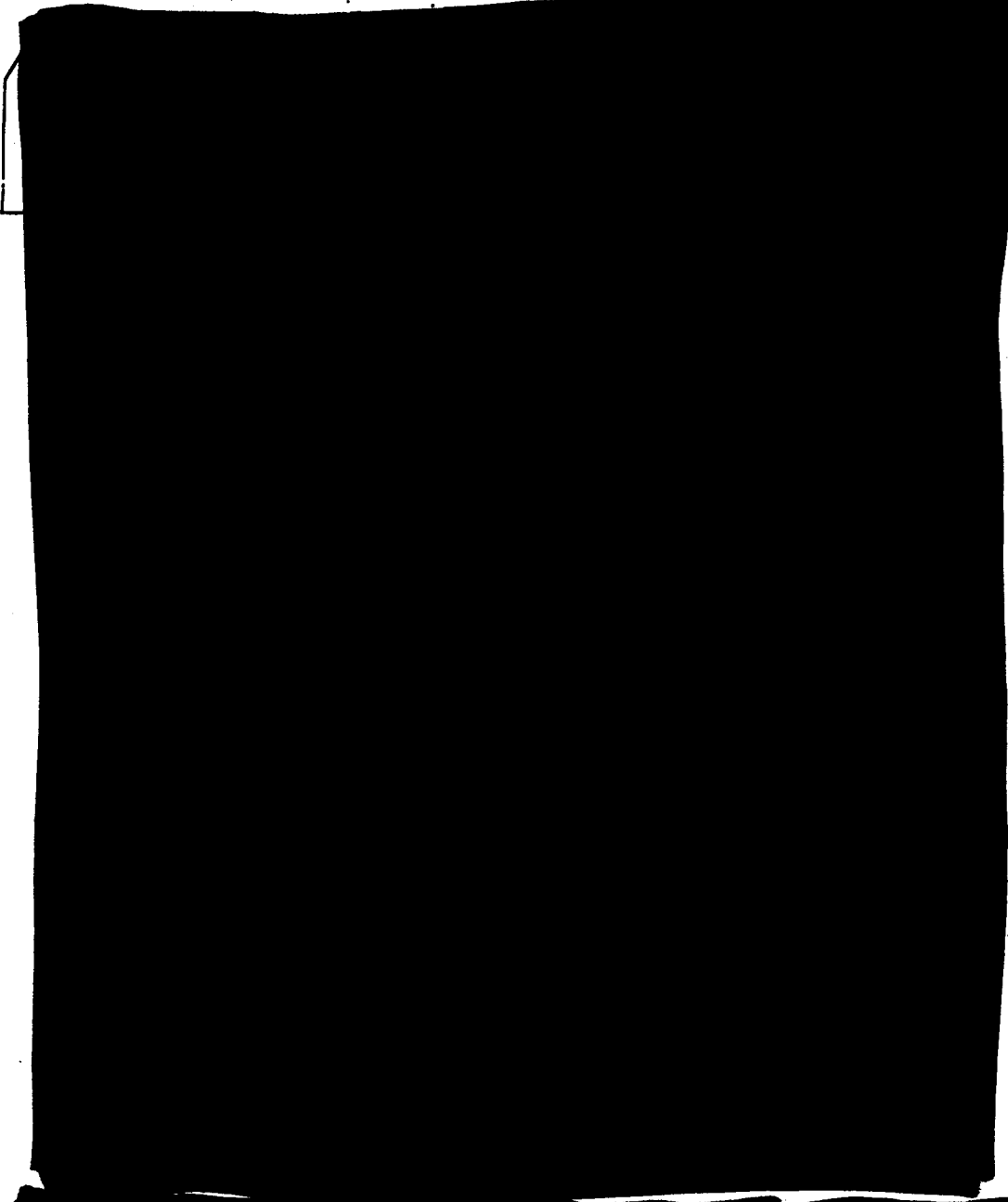
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