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28 August 1963

SUBJECT: DOD/CIA/NASA Agreement on NASA's Reconnaissance Program

1. This Reconnaissance Program Agreement finalizes arrangements between NASA and DOD/CIA, the latter being identified throughout this paper by their joint operational units, the National Reconnaissance Office (NRO), and recognizes that NASA has a requirement to perform both unmanned and manned lunar reconnaissance operations, and will in some cases be required to test equipments in earth orbits prior to engaging on lunar operations; while NRO, by virtue of its capabilities in on-going reconnaissance satellite programs, have developed the necessary technology, contractual resources, and management skills to produce satisfactory equipment, and appropriate security methods to preserve these capabilities, which are currently covert and highly sensitive. The arrangements will properly match NASA requirements with NRO capabilities to perform lunar reconnaissance.

2. To carry out these arrangements, the following procedure will normally be employed:

After reviewing NASA stated requirements in the light of NRO DOD experience and reconnaissance technology and operations services (verifying that NRO developed technology is applicable and still considered classified above confidential) and agreeing to a set of classifications for the reconnaissance equipment, it will be the responsibility of the NRO to

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This vehicle will generally be provided by NASA. The actual management of the contract will be performed by a two-man team, including one man from NASA, who will be cleared for the

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This arrangement is to provide all essential information to the appropriate members of NASA and the contractor organizations involved in the development of the flight vehicle and reconnaissance hardware.

3. In the event that it may prove desirable for NASA to employ NRO developed vehicles (or spacecraft) for certain of these lunar reconnaissance operations, the above agreement will remain as stated except that the management of the vehicle (or spacecraft) related portions of the program may then become the responsibility of the NRO representative, rather than that of the NASA representative.

4.

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5. The dual management team will, among other things, define in each particular program the detailed division of responsibilities for such matters as reliability, quality control, systems engineering, cost accountability, operations, etc., in general agreement with the previous provisions.

6. The conduct of operations with these equipments will normally be primarily the responsibility of NASA, in accordance with NRO security practices jointly agreed to, including those relating to equipment handling, checkout, etc. Special arrangements will be worked out for the handling of product processing and dissemination within the NRO security practices.

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7. Any reconnaissance programs required to fulfill objectives (such as an unmanned lunar orbiter) which does not require performance equivalent to classified NRO developed hardware is not a subject of this agreement. Determination that a program can be open will be made jointly by the Associate Administrator, NASA and the Director of Defense Research and Engineering. NASA will implement open programs through usual management channels.

(signed)
ROBERT S. MCNAMARA
Secretary of Defense

(signed)
JAMES E. WEBB
Administrator, NASA

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