

Col Worthman
State (AF/MOL)



OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

2 April 1964

Refer to: I-4720/64

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Plan for Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL)

In a letter to Mr. McNaughton, dated 25 March 1964, Mr. Jeffrey C. Kitchen, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Politico-Military Affairs, requested that the Department of Defense institute preliminary consideration of public affairs guidelines for the MOL; and that such guidelines be coordinated with his office so that any foreign policy issues which might be posed could be adequately handled.

By memorandum for Col. Heasty, OASD/PA, dated 27 March 1964, I requested to be informed of any existing public affairs guidelines on the MOL program or preliminary thoughts on the future handling of public releases on this program. Lt. Col. Mahoney of Col. Heasty's office advised me that the Air Force Director of Public Information had prepared and approved an information plan to cover the MOL program but that Mr. McMillan, Under Secretary of the Air Force, had requested delay in the further processing of this plan pending the determination of management responsibilities for the program, which is expected to be made in the near future. In conversations with Col. Worthman of Mr. McMillan's office I was informed that Mr. McMillan is uncertain as to the advisability of exempting the public information aspects of the MOL program from the provisions of DOD Directive S-5200.13, subject: "Security Policy For Military Space Programs"; and that when assignment of management responsibility is made it is Mr. McMillan's intention to call together those responsible for discussion of the public affairs considerations. After these discussions a recommendation will be made concerning the applicability of the referenced DOD Directive to the MOL program, and an appropriate information plan will be forwarded to ASD/PA for approval.

Away from report of what I said, but not important

In a telephone conversation with Mr. Raymond Garthoff of State, who authored the Kitchen letter of 25 March, I outlined the status of the information plan for the MOL program. I assured him that upon approval of the information plan within Defense our public affairs personnel would be in touch with their counterparts in State and that I would be in touch with him directly or through PA channels to insure that any foreign policy issues which might be of concern to his office are properly considered. It was agreed that an interim response to the Kitchen letter would not be necessary.

A copy of this M/R is being made available to the following personnel so that they will be alerted to the commitment which I made to Mr.

File: STIC/MOL

Garthoff: Lt. Colonel Mahoney, OASD/PA; Colonel Worthman, SAFSS;
and Lt. Colonel Wingel, SAFOIX.

Marshall E. Sanders
Colonel, USAF
Chief, Coordinating Division
Policy Planning Staff