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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

NOTED BY THE
SECRETARY OF
THE AIR FORCE

NOV 1 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory Monthly Status
Report

The attached Status Report on the Manned Orbiting
Laboratory (MOL) Program covers activities through
October 31, 1966 and is submitted in accordance with
the October 14, 1966 memorandum from the Office of
the Secretary.

for Harry R. Evans
JAMES FERGUSON
General, USAF
Director, MOL Program

1 Atch
a/s

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I. PROBLEMS

A. Contract Negotiations

With the exception of the Eastman-Kodak and Martin Companies, negotiations with MOL Program major contractors have not yet been concluded. The Government and company negotiators are continuing to press diligently to resolve or compromise their differences. The Government target date for completion of negotiations with Douglas, McDonnell and GE remains November 10, 1966. The differences between the government and contractors positions is sufficiently large to suggest that the November 10 date is somewhat optimistic.

B. Aircraft Support for MOL Crew Members

The total aircraft requirement for support of MOL astronauts consists of: 2 F-104 and 2 T-38 aircraft at Edwards Air Force Base to support advanced flight training; 2 T-39 aircraft at Los Angeles International Airport, and 5 T-38 aircraft at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station for Space Flight Readiness training. The requirement for one T-39 and all five T-38's is unfulfilled, and the Air Staff has indicated that these aircraft are not available. The Director, MOL has sent a letter to Headquarters USAF, emphasizing the need for T-38 aircraft for Spaceflight Readiness training for the MOL astronauts. The letter includes a request for ten manpower spaces to support the MOL flying operation at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station. An Air Staff reply is expected within the next few weeks. Secretarial assistance may be required if Headquarters USAF does not provide the necessary aircraft and manpower support.

*Al Has,
It hasn't been seen to
me that the
schedule requires
this very soon.*

II. CHANGES PAST MONTH

A. SAC Representative

Major Richard A. DeLong has been selected as the SAC representative to be assigned to the Mission Planning Division of the MOL Program Office. A firm assignment date has not been determined; however, January 1967 has been suggested to Headquarters SAC as being acceptable. Major DeLong is currently assigned to

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Headquarters SAC (Directorate of Plans) and has been associated with the SAC "blue suit" simulation and analysis capability for approximately two years.

B. MOL Launch Complex - VAFB

The design of the MOL Launch Complex will be completed by November 1, 1966. It is anticipated that invitations for bids on construction of long lead time items will be requested on November 15. Authority was granted on October 17 to advertise prior to release of funds. The advertised package will include launch facilities with an estimated cost of \$21.8 million. Short lead time items not in the advertised package include the intersite railroad, soil erosion, Segment Ready Storage Building, Segment Receipt Inspection Building, Diesel Electric Generating Plant, Ready Building and Antenna Towers.

C. Phase IC Contract Extensions

In order to protect long lead-time development requirements, supplementary agreements to existing Phase IC contracts have been entered into with Douglas, General Electric and McDonnell Corporations. These contracts were for a total of \$12.2 million, \$3.6 million and \$6.0 million respectively, and cover the period September 1 through October 31. They were designed to protect the MOL Program Phase II schedule while negotiations of the definitive contracts continues. If the negotiations continue past mid-November, new supplementary agreements will be required.

D. Vice Chief of Staff Briefing

On October 17 General Holloway was briefed on the MOL Program at the DORIAN level by General Evans and Colonel Norman.

III. CURRENT STATUS

A. Funds

The total of funds released against the MOL line item since program approval in August 1965 is now approximately \$151.7 million. The FY 1966 carry-over balance held by the Director, MOL Program, is approximately \$14.5 million as of October 31, 1966. This carry-

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over will be exhausted within the next two months and will require initial releases of FY 67 funds during December 1966.

Any problem anticipated from DORIAN?

B. NASA Assignee to MOL SPO

A NASA civilian has been identified for assignment to the West Coast Engineering Directorate. His clearance status is now undergoing review.

C. HST Launch

Preparation for launch, on November 3, of the Heat Shield Test (HST) Gemini spacecraft on Titan IIIC Vehicle #9, continues on schedule at Cape Kennedy. Check-out of the launch configuration has proceeded with minimal difficulty and final qualification of experiments to be flown has been completed. The launch trajectory provides for separation of the Gemini spacecraft after apogee for a sub-orbital reentry, and injection of the remaining cylindrical test structure, with OAR experiments, into orbit with the transtage.

The public affairs plan for this launch has been approved by OASD/PA and distributed to all action and interested organizations by SAF-OI. The plan outlines procedures for "open" news media coverage of the launch similar to past Titan II launches. The basic policy provides for minimum MOL exposure in the news media by avoiding mention of MOL involvement wherever possible in official releases and briefings. Information materials were prepared accordingly and approved by OSD.

D. Abort Recovery Staging Base

The Chief of the [redacted] has concurred with the MOL Program proposal for the joint [redacted] MOL construction and use of the Easter Island airfield facilities. Funds to accomplish the construction augmentation required by the MOL Program have been requested. The additional funds required for the runway augmentation, which is in the initial phase of construction, should be transferred by early November 1966. A diplomatic clearance request for MOL Program Easter Island operations has been transmitted to the American Ambassador to Chile. Program change requests for the recovery forces (H-53's and C-130's) are being evaluated by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

Would like to talk to Gen Evans about this.

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E. Technical Review of Phase II Contracts

Special processing procedures for AFSC approval of Phase II MOL Contracts have been established. These procedures include the requirement for a technical review of the contracts prior to approval by the Deputy Chief of Staff/Procurement and Production, Headquarters, AFSC. The MOL Program Office will assume the responsibility for determining that the technical and engineering specifications and requirements of the different contractors efforts are not duplicative or contradictory, and that where there are interfaces, the contracts properly provide for these. A Technical Review Team has been established and will convene at SSD on November 7 for approximately one week.

IV. FORECAST FOR FUTURE

A. November Program Review

The review is scheduled for November 17 at Los Angeles. The principal agenda item will be a review of negotiated program costs.

B. MOL Policy Committee

Tentative plans are being made for a MOL Policy Committee meeting on Monday, November 21. The purpose of the meeting will be to review total program costs and fiscal year funding requirements in the light of negotiated Phase II Contracts.

V. DUE DATE FOR NEXT PROGRESS REPORT

Next monthly MOL Progress Report to be submitted December 7, 1966.

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