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DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301



MAR 10 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DDR&E

SUBJECT: MOL Program Alternative Decision

It is understood that on March 6, 1969 you received a decision from DepSecDef Packard to proceed with a four manned mission MOL Program. The purpose of this memo is to confirm this fact and advise the Air Force and other involved organizations of Mr. Packard's decision.

The four manned mission alternate is one of four MOL Program Alternatives submitted to Mr. Packard on February 26, 1969 by Dr. Seamans with your concurrence. It protects with minimum commitment, until December 1970, a continuing very high resolution operational reconnaissance capability in the 1970's, provides time in which to carefully assess other options, and sustains a minimum cost development program leading to manned or unmanned operational systems. The funding requirements and schedule for this option are summarized below:

<u>FY69 &amp; Prior</u>	<u>FY70</u>	<u>FY71</u>	<u>End Prgm Total</u>	<u>1st Manned Launch</u>	<u>4th Manned Launch</u>
\$1,237M	\$556M	\$545M	\$2,835M	Feb 72	Sept 73

The four flight program will reduce the total MOL development costs approximately \$200 million over the present baseline program. The program will continue to be directed towards the program objectives approved by the President in 1965, namely: semi-operational use to achieve resolution photography of significant targets; development of the necessary high resolution optical technology and a camera system for manned and unmanned use; the provision of a space facility for the possible development, test, and use of other military applications; and information on the extent of man's military utility in space.

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This "manned only" option does not eliminate the unmanned capability but would delay its availability about 1½ years assuming no follow-on decision is made until December 1970. The interval between now and December 1970 will be devoted to systematic and comprehensive analyses of a variety of options: optimized unmanned systems using the MOL camera system; more efficient and effective MOL systems; other possible MOL applications and configurations; etc. To assure that the necessary deliberate evaluations of manned and unmanned operational considerations and analyses of lower cost unmanned systems are made in a timely fashion the AF will submit by April 15, 1969 their detailed study outline for DDR&E review. Approximately \$5 million is included in the FY 1970 budget for such studies.

By indicating your approval below you will confirm that Mr. Packard has selected the four manned mission alternate, and provide the Air Force authority to proceed with this alternative. Testimony and Congressional back-up material will be changed accordingly. A revision to the DCP will follow.

*I. Nevin Palley*  
I. NEVIN PALLEY  
Assistant Director  
(Space Technology)

Approved *John S. Foster, Jr.*  
John S. Foster, Jr.

Date *3/11/69*

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Page 2 of 2 pages  
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10 March 1969

Dr. Tucker:

The attached memorandum confirms my understanding of the decision on MOL made by Mr. Packard. If you agree, would you please forward for Dr. Foster's approval.

I. NEVIN PALLEY  
Assistant Director  
(Space Technology)

*Jahn-*

*Recommend you sign*

*C. Adams*