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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

MR VANCE HAS SEEN

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

June 12, 1964

EYES ONLY

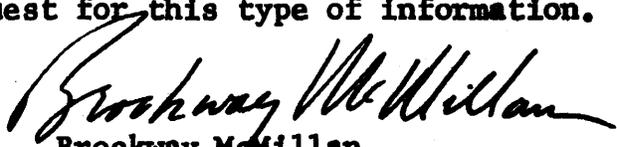
MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

On 23 March, I had asked Dr. Wheelon for a resume of all CIA studies, excluding ~~(S)~~NRO funded, having to do with the ~~(TS)~~NRP. On 18 April, General Carter acknowledged for Dr. Wheelon stating it was a good idea and we would get together after 27 April. On 15 May, I again requested a meeting during the week of 25 May. In a subsequent conversation with General Carter regarding this and several other unanswered requests for certain information, the response was "Why worry about it -- the FIAB is going to straighten everything out".

In the meantime, both Dr. Fubini and I have had separate indications that Dr. Wheelon is contracting for satellite system and sub-system studies with probable explicit instructions to the contractors not to give the ~~(S)~~DNRO or DDR&E any information regarding the source of the request for study.

This morning Philco put on a briefing of their study efforts on overall satellite systems plus communications and photo readout schemes that they are conducting at this time. (Memorandum for Record attached)

In view of these circumstances, I have taken a calculated action in writing the attached memorandum to Mr. McCone so that he may be aware of my request for this type of information.



Brockway McMillan
Director

~~(S)~~National Reconnaissance Office

Attachments

- Memorandum for Record
- Memorandum for Mr. McCone

cc: Secretary of Defense

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June 12, 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Dr. Fubini and I received a briefing today by Mr. Fthenakis and two other representatives of Philco, outlining in general terms an area of study in which the Philco organization has been engaged. Subjects of study included

1. Capabilities of TITAN III as a booster for reconnaissance payloads,
2. Subsystems and techniques for on-board power, attitude control, and navigation,
3. Side looking radar as a reconnaissance sensor,
4. Sensors for ELINT,
5. Communications techniques and systems for transmission of imagery and other data from satellites to ground stations,
6. Conceptual satellite systems for collection of intelligence data, and
7. Cost-effectiveness of various conceptual systems.

Conceptual systems were discussed in general terms. Except for a few conclusions about attitude control and data transmission, no specific technical facts were made available.

Mr. Fthenakis stated that some of the studies he had described had been done on company funds, and he identified the studies on data transmission as funded under Air Force contracts from Wright Field. He said that he was not permitted to reveal the source of funds for the remaining studies and was not permitted to discuss the results of these studies.

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It is my judgment that most of the material outlined by Mr. Fthenakis is of direct interest and importance to the ~~(S)~~ NRO. It is also my judgment that a considerable portion of the work involved duplicates current or past studies funded by the Government and done under the cognizance of the ~~(S)~~ NRO. It was not possible to judge the contribution of the Philco studies in comparison to the efforts which they potentially duplicate.



Brockway McMillan
Director

~~(S)~~ National Reconnaissance Office

cc - Mr. Vance
Dr. Fubini

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