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NRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held 6 October 1965
Room 3E 928, The Pentagon

Members Present

Mr. Cyrus R. Vance	Deputy Secretary of Defense
Admiral William F. Raborn	Director of Central Intelligence
Dr. Donald F. Hornig	Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
Dr. Alexander H. Flax	Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Ex Officio
Mr. James Q. Reber	Secretary, NRP Executive Committee, Ex Officio

Others Present

Mr. R. Helms, DDCI	Mr. H. Sheldon, CIA
Mr. J. Crowley, CIA	Colonel D. Carter, NRO Staff
Mr. L. Dirks, CIA	Dr. D. Steininger, PSAC
Dr. L. Lauderdale, CIA	

New Search System

1. Briefings. The Executive Committee was presented with a short review of the three camera systems under study for the satellite photographic search function and their contract status.

a. Mr. Dirks briefed on the Perkin-Elmer proposal. This contractor had been studying two systems but, on their recommendation, was now assigned to pursue only the system briefed at this meeting. They plan to have a proposal available by 15 November 1965.

b. Colonel Carter briefed on the Eastman Kodak and ITEK cameras, indicating that the EK camera contract was being terminated and the camera design transferred to ITEK for further study. He indicated that the ITEK contract will run through 31 December 1965 with an engineering model scheduled for 26 March 1966.

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Reference was made in the discussion to an NPIC study on the fall-off of quality in the extremities of obliquity. This study will be made available to the members.

2. Next Actions. Dr. Flax described his plan to establish a technical task group to be composed of representatives of the CIA and SAFSP under chairmanship of the NRO to prepare a statement of system operational requirements, to recommend the selection of a system configuration, to formulate plans for contractor selection, and to recommend a program plan including a schedule. This group will first be asked to assess the effort and time required to complete its tasks; the anticipated dates for completion of the task group activities will be made available to the ExCom within the next few weeks. He indicated that the instructions to the technical task force would have to take into account the fact that the studies and developmental work on the three camera concepts are in different stages. He also indicated that the group would be guided in its camera and contractor selection by instructions from the D/NRO.

3. Dr. Flax indicated that he planned also to establish a task group to define the project management structure. The terms of reference for this group, participants, and due date would likewise be available to the ExCom within two weeks.

4. ExCom Action. The Committee concurred in the actions indicated by Dr. Flax in paragraphs 2 and 3 above.



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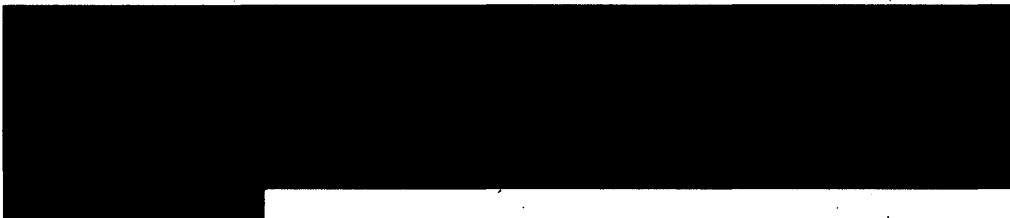
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6. Next Actions. Dr. Flax stated that he planned the following actions:

a. A technical evaluation by an independent panel on the system technical feasibility and the [REDACTED] capabilities. He emphasized the latter aspect as being most critical. There was a discussion on the need for and practicality of separate evaluations of the payload and the spacecraft. It was agreed that the evaluation should concentrate on the most critical and important technical feature; namely, [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] Such an evaluation, however, could include consideration of other elements of the system as necessary. It was also agreed that the degree of detailed review of various elements of the system should be determined by the technical panel in view of their own assessments of the significant technical problems of the system. In this connection, there was discussion as to whether the group to conduct the technical evaluation should be a PSAC instrument, such as the Land Panel, or a panel appointed by the D/NRO. Dr. Flax indicated that he had no objection if the PSAC wished to conduct a review for its own purposes. However, he felt that it should be part of his management responsibility to establish or conduct those reviews necessary to program recommendations and decisions. Dr. Hornig concurred that it should be a part of the management process and structure although in due course PSAC will no doubt have some review function.

b. Dr. Flax noted that the agreement on the NRP indicated that, as new programs came along, available

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DoD assets should be employed. Thus he felt that there should be an opportunity for Air Force familiarization with the spacecraft in order that, if the Air Force is assigned that function under the management plan, no time would be lost in becoming familiar later. He indicated that he did not consider that such familiarization should prejudice the management decision. Mr. Vance and Admiral Raborn agreed that, although the referenced aspect of the Agreement was a general guide, each case should be examined on merit and an exception was not ruled out by the language in the Agreement.

c. Dr. Flax indicated that he believed all parties were in agreement that a cost-effectiveness study should be made. He said he had been advised that the original proposal for COMOR to make this study would be infeasible within the desired time period. Accordingly, he proposed that he appoint a small task force acceptable to CIA to complete the study by 15 November 1965. This study would consist of a comparison of the trade-offs of all proposed

[REDACTED]

d. Dr. Flax also stated that he planned to set up a task group to consider and recommend management arrangements for [REDACTED]

7. ExCom Action. The Executive Committee concurred in the actions proposed in paragraph 6 above.

Addendum from the D/NRO

8. We have previously advised USIB and COMOR that four GAMBIT missions, in addition to the one scheduled in September, could be conducted by 1 January 1967. Special inspections of mission critical components and subsequent spacecraft testing to assure flight readiness have reduced the number of possible missions in this time period to two, in addition to the

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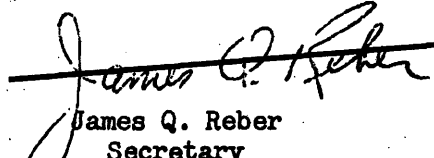
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September one just successfully completed. These missions are scheduled for early November and early December. The other two spacecraft will be available during the first quarter of CY 1966 in addition to those now scheduled during that time.


James Q. Reber
Secretary
NRP Executive Committee

Copy 1 Mr. Vance
2-4 Adm. Raborn
5 Dr. Hornig
6,7 Dr. Flax
8-10 Mr. Reber

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