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Access to this document will be restricted to those persons
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[REDACTED] ISINGLASS OXCART IDEALIST
 CORONA GAMBIT [REDACTED]

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NRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held 16 November 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 |
| Mr. James Q. Reber | Acting Director, National
Reconnaissance Office, Ex Officio |

Others Present

- | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Dr. John S. Foster, DDR&E | Mr. John A. Bross, CIA |
| General James T. Stewart | Mr. Huntington D. Sheldon, CIA |
| Director, NRO Staff | [REDACTED] CIA |
| [REDACTED] | |
| NRO Comptroller | |

Review of the NRP Budget FY 1967

1. The method of approach for review of the budget was for [REDACTED] the Comptroller, to review the budget calling attention to problem areas, subsequent to which the letter from the Director of Central Intelligence to the Director, National Reconnaissance Office (16 November 1965, BYE-0345-65) was to be discussed.

2. Problem Areas Resolved. In the problem areas there was agreement to discuss certain ones further at a meeting next week (see paragraph 3). Other problem areas were settled as follows:

a. U-2 Buy. It was agreed to remove the [REDACTED] which had been included in the NRP Budget for the possible purchase of new U-2s in FY 1967. In doing so the Committee felt that consideration for a new buy could wait some months, even as late as for the FY 1968 budget. If the situation changed and a U-2 buy became imperative, fund sources would have to be identified. Note was taken of the fact that the lead time on new U-2s is 12 to 14 months (at a rate of approximately one per month).

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b. Satellite SIGINT. It was agreed to reduce the NRP figure of [REDACTED] as recommended by Dr. Foster. [REDACTED] indicated this could be met by eliminating one FY 1968 launch. It was noted that satellite SIGINT collection is one field in which we have many uncertainties to be resolved, hopefully on completion of the USIB's current cost-effectiveness study which is being carried on by the Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance with the assistance of outside experts.

c. ISINGLASS. Mr. Vance felt strongly that [REDACTED] was too much of a commitment for ISINGLASS. He felt that a much more modest scale of effort in the analytical field was in order until we see where it fits into our reconnaissance program, if it fits in at all. He further believed that money for this could come out of the General R&D funds, perhaps up to as much as [REDACTED]. Dr. Hornig was reluctant to discontinue interest in the ISINGLASS but agreed that we first needed to see how and where it fitted in our program. Admiral Raborn proposed that the NRO should take on the job of defining where it fits. It was agreed that for the present budget Mr. Vance's approach should be followed although specific funds for FY 1966 and 1967 were not agreed to. Meanwhile, the NRO will, with the CIA, prepare for the ExCom an examination of whether the ISINGLASS concept has a place in the NRP.

A briefing on ISINGLASS will be provided to the ExCom in the near future in response to the request of Mr. Vance and Dr. Hornig.

d. Vulnerability. General Stewart noted in response to the DCI's memorandum that the NRO was initiating discussions with the CIA particularly in regard to joint preparation of threat models and associated analyses.

e. Advanced Cartographic Satellite System. There was agreement that the [REDACTED] originally included for the above subject in the NRP Budget should be removed. It was noted that advanced technology on wide angle lenses (applicable to A/C or satellites) would be continued at a level of about [REDACTED] in advanced development.

f. [REDACTED] indicated the BoB may wish to provide no additional money for this program. A [REDACTED] DoD position was established.

3. Problem Areas to be Resolved. The following problems were discussed inconclusively pending a meeting on them next week at which time further information will be provided as indicated:

a. OXCART. Discussion centered on the proposed DDR&E reduction of [REDACTED] from the NRP Budget figure of [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] explained the rationale he had used in reducing the original CIA OXCART figure of [REDACTED] and stated he believed that this was a justifiable figure. Questions raised by Dr. Foster with regard to the flying-hour program and the engine overhaul for all of the 11 OXCART aircraft in question appeared to be the critical factor in the matter of reduction. Information on these questions will be provided by CIA in concert with [REDACTED] at the next meeting.

Mr. Vance indicated that he wished to discuss separately with Mr. McNamara and Admiral Raborn the BoB proposal re disposition of the OXCART assets.

b. [REDACTED]

c. Countermeasures. Dr. Foster emphasized the importance of funds for this purpose and viewed it as a more critical item in the future success of our reconnaissance programs than perhaps some items of more general acceptance. If the [REDACTED] is related to a limitation imposed by availability of manpower, he would agree to it. If not, he felt that perhaps this item should be increased. He agreed to look into this matter and to report at next week's meeting.

d. General R&D (Studies, Applied Research, etc.). After some discussion, Mr. Vance asked Dr. Hornig to discuss what he considered a fair percentage of the total NRP Budget to be devoted to R&D. The DNRO will comment at the next meeting more fully with regard to the plans for the use of the R&D funds and also on the question raised by the DCI with regard to assigning a fair share of the NRP R&D funds to CIA for mission-oriented research. The Committee agreed not to pursue a specific operational project on balloons at this time, but did not rule out conceptual studies and/or technology efforts at a modest level.

New Search System

4. [REDACTED] reported that there might be an adverse view of the BoB on the New Search System. Mr. Vance requested Mr. Schulte of the BoB to furnish issue statements on any of the NRP programs as soon as possible.

Black Portion of the Air Force Budget

5. [REDACTED] presented a chart showing relationships of the black budget to the total Air Force budget, indicating certain trends. These trends show that in the [REDACTED] there is more than half of the total new obligating authority budget which Congressman Mahon cannot discuss with his full committee. He reported that in response to Dr. Brown's inquiry last year he had prepared a discussion paper examining potential areas for reducing the black budget. Mr. Vance said he would like to read the memorandum, as did Admiral Raborn, and indicated his concern about this matter. Admiral Raborn offered to provide assistance in talking informally with members of Congressman Mahon's committee if that were desired. Mr. Vance stated that after they have read the paper he wished to talk with Admiral Raborn further about the matter.

Briefing on G-3

6. Mr. Vance requested that in the near future a briefing on G-3 be presented to the ExCom.

DCI Letter

7. At the conclusion of the foregoing discussion and actions General Stewart reviewed the aforementioned letter of the DCI indicating paragraph by paragraph the way in which the foregoing discussion had related to his various points. In summary, all the matters were considered to have been responded to except for the items listed for treatment at next week's meeting and the following additional comments:

a. With regard to CORONA, since the new general search system will not be available as soon as anticipated last year, General Stewart pointed out that the KH-4 program will



have to extend into FY 1969 (the present program termination date has been assumed as end of FY 1968). He indicated that FY 1966 funds, previously allocated to the new general search system, and not now needed because of its late start, were tentatively reserved to buy four more CORONA systems to extend the program into FY 1969.

b. General Stewart indicated that the FY 1966 funds now being reserved for CORONA might instead have to be allocated to a buy of additional GAMBITs for FY 1967 launch to provide for increased launches for China coverage as being considered by the Secretary of Defense. General Stewart indicated he would discuss this subject at the next ExCom.

James Q. Reber
Secretary
NRP Executive Committee

Copy 1 Mr. Vance
2-4 Adm. Raborn
5 Dr. Hornig
6-8 Dr. Flax
9,10 Mr. Reber