WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

21 October 1965

MEMO FOR Col. Paul E. Worthman, SAF-SS, 4C1000

SUBJECT: Public Affairs Guidance for MOL

Request your concurrence or comment on the attached proposed PA guidance for the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL).

SIGNED

Daniel C. Mahoney
LtCol., USAF
Plans and Programs
2E777/Ext. 71311/54265

Atch
a/s

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS

Security: Policy
Security: STIC: MOL ✓
Policy: MOL

[redacted]

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

P/A GUIDANCE - DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY (MOL) PROGRAM

Public Affairs Objectives: To localize and minimize publicity on the MOL program. Information proposed for release should be limited to that data which would probably become public because of unavoidable public visibility. Such information will be released in a modest-low-key manner designed to avoid widespread adverse reactions on the part of the news media which would tend to over emphasize the military as opposed to scientific objectives of the program.

General Policy: Department of Defense Directive 5200.13, and Air Force Regulation 205-23 apply to all DoD agencies and contractors of the MOL program to that extent required to protect the various military objectives and capabilities for manned and unmanned operation. Security procedures specified by AFR 205-23 apply to all military experiments and payloads and those aspects of the laboratory vehicle which reveal the specific mission or capabilities of the military payloads. AFR 205-23 does not apply to the booster (TITAN IIIC) and GEMINI capsule; or to the launch of the MOL vehicle and the recovery of the GEMINI capsule.

Public Release of Information

a. Speeches: Since minimum publicity is desired, speeches concerning the MOL Program are discouraged, and should not be made without specific authorization by OASD(PA). References to the MOL Program in connection with public addresses on other topics should be held to a minimum and should only be made where failure to do so would in itself cause widespread adverse comment.

b. Proposed News Releases: Releases concerning the MOL Program will be submitted through channels to OASD(PA) for approval. MOL information submitted for clearance should be forwarded as early as practicable because of the extensive inter-agency coordination that is necessary prior to approval.

c. Answer to Queries: Answers to Queries may be given within the context of the following material that has been released officially.

Q. What is the MOL project?

A. A manned space flight project, of a research and experimental nature, which will put two men into space for periods of up to 30 days, in a "shirt-sleeves" environment, with the object of finding out more about what man is able to do in space and how that ability might be related to defense purposes. Five such manned launches are presently planned, starting in 1968. MOL experimentation will run into the 1970's.

Q. Who will carry out the project?

A. The U.S. Air Force, under the direction of the Department of Defense. The Douglas Aircraft Company and the General Electric Company will build the spacecraft and plan and develop the experiments respectively. MOL flights will be directed by the Air Force Satellite Control Facility, Sunnyvale, California. We anticipate that MOL launches will be carried out from both the East and West Coast.

Q. What kind of experiments will be conducted?

A. The project directors will be considering for some time yet what defense-related experiments would seem to offer the most promise, but there is interest by the Air Force in building and assembling large antennae for communications purposes, and by the Navy in experiments of potential usefulness in antisubmarine warfare. The Army has not as yet recommended any experiments. Other representative examples of defense research that might be carried out would be experiments dealing with space structures technology, guidance and navigation, and extra-vehicular activity and equipment. In addition to defense related experiments, scientific experiments devised by NASA may be included.

Q. What is the relationship between MOL and nuclear weapons in space?

A. There is no relationship whatever. The MOL is a military program which is peaceful --- i.e. non-aggressive --- in character. MOL will not be a bomb carrier.

At the same time that he announced the decision to proceed with MOL, President Johnson reaffirmed the U.S. intention not to place weapons of mass destruction in orbit. The President said "We continue to live up to our agreement not to orbit weapons of mass destruction and we will continue to hold out to all nations, including the Sovet Union, the hand of cooperation in the exciting years of exploration which lie ahead for all of us."

By way of background, two years ago the U.S. and USSR each stated it would refrain from orbiting weapons of mass destruction in outer space or stationing such weapons on celestial bodies. The U.S. and Soviet statements were expressly welcomed by the UNGA in resolution 1884 (XVIII) adopted unanimously October 17, 1963, as an important step in preventing the spread of of an arms race to outer space. The resolution calls on all states to refrain from conducting or encouraging such activities.

Q. Doesn't the MOL approval nevertheless mean that the U.S. has embarked on a new policy with respect to military activity in space?

A. No, it does not. The MOL fits into and is a logical next step in a continuing U.S. military program in space which derives from our Space Act. The Act itself makes clear that the U.S., while seeking to help develop space for peaceful purposes for the benefit of all mankind, intends to utilize its space activities in maximizing its defensive capability.

The MOL was first announced in December, 1963, at the time when DYNASOAR, a military manned spaceflight project dating from the 1950's, was cancelled. DYNASOAR was cancelled because it was aimed solely toward the development of advanced reentry techniques. MOL began to be studied at that time because it seemed to give promise of being a broader and more useful research and experimental program, focussing on man himself in space rather than machinery, equipment, and techniques as such.

Q. Won't the MOL approval touch off a military space race with the Soviets?

A. We see no reason to think this. The Soviet Union has for some time been carrying out a comprehensive space program involving manned and unmanned flights of various kinds, and doubtless will continue to do so. The U.S. has no desire or intention to engaged in a military space race with the USSR. Our only intention is to take those measures in space as elsewhere that responsibility and prudence dictate in terms of our national security. The decision to

proceed with the MOL is motivated by the need to do more research; it is not a reaction to any Soviet space project, program, or statements.

Q. Why does this have to be a manned operation; couldn't unmanned satellites do the job?

A. If there were a computer which did not have to be programmed could therefore think independently,, and had eyes and hands to be put at the service of that thinking ability, the human element might well be taken out of the manned orbiting laboratory project. Despite the onrush of automation, this is not the case now or in the foreseeable future. Man still has a unique role to play on the land, sea and in the air for many defense and other purposes. The MOL project is a research effort to see whether this is true in the new environment of space as well.

Q. Will the TITAN IIIC as it is now configured be used to launch the Manned Orbiting Laboratory?

A. As previously stated, TITAN III consists of a family of vehicles in our building block concept. This family may run from the use of the TITAN III core alone to the use of TITAN III with 7 segment 120 inch solid motors, or 2 or 3 segment, 156 inch solid motors. For MOL we anticipate TITAN III with the 7 segment 120 inch motor.

Q. Why do you need a 7 segment 120 inch rather than 5 segment?

A. We must be prepared to launch the MOL from the Western Test Range and to do this requires more thrust than that necessary from the Eastern Test Range.

Q. Are you planning to launch the MOL from the Cape and from Vandenberg AFB?

A. Yes we are.

Q. What launch will take place out of the Cape and what will take place out at Vandenberg AFB?

A. This will be determined later on basis of experiment schedule and orbits desired for each flight.

Q. Where are the MOL mission control by location?

A. From Eastern Test Range on the East Coast and the Air Force Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, Calif.

Q. Will TITAN III still continue to be launched from Cape Kennedy ~~XXX~~ following the research and development program?

A. Yes TITAN III will be used for the Initial Defense Communication Satellite Program plus any other payloads assigned to us.

Q. Will you build full ITL at Vandenberg AFB and when will this be available for the first launch?

A. We are planning to build an initial launch capability at Vandenberg Air Force Base. This consists of one pad where the vehicle will be built upon the pad and we anticipate having a launching capability in mid-1968.

Q. Have you acquired the land for your launching facility at Vandenberg AFB.

A. No.

Q. What is meant by a "shirt-sleeves" environment?

A. An environment spacious enough and safe enough to enable men to live, move, and work in it without having to use space suits. The MOL was once described by Secretary McNamara as intended to be about the size of a small house trailer; what is now envisaged is a laboratory "canister" about 40 feet long and 10 feet in diameter, joined to a GEMINI capsule, the whole ~~XXXXXX~~ thing to be launched by a TITAN IIIC booster. Each man will have about 400 cubic feet of space in which to live and work.