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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

Functions: MOL ✓
Functions: NRO Staff

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

November 24, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: MOL Management

Reference is made to General Martin's letter of November 12 on the above subject (Tab A) and a copy of a proposed message to General Martin and General Berg from you and General Schriever.

I believe we need settle the MOL management procedures (Washington area), relationships of the Director, MOL, to SAFSP, and NRO Staff participation in the MOL Program Office at an early date.

As I recall the situation, you essentially agreed to the issuance of all program direction to both SSD and SAFSP by the Director, MOL (provided the direction to SAFSP had your prior concurrence). These procedures have not yet been issued in an official document. This should be a "two-way street," with most information, requests, etc. from SAFSP flowing up through the Director, MOL. It appears, from his memo, that General Martin does not agree with this concept and only wants to deal directly with you or the NRO Staff.

As far as the NRO Staff is concerned, I have previously agreed with General Evans to follow the Martin-Berg arrangement on the West Coast and co-locate my MOL payload project officer in General Evans' office. I know General Martin agrees with the concept; however, in contrast to the proposed message (Tab B), General Martin believes the NRO Staff should "own" everyone in the MOL Washington Office (with the exceptions, I guess, of Generals Schriever and Evans) connected with MOL reconnaissance aspects.

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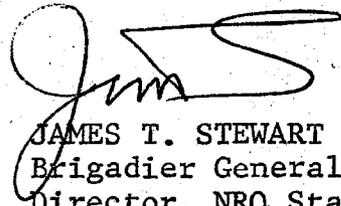
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Frankly, it makes no difference to me whether one or three-four SAFSS people are assigned to the MOL Office; I would still co-locate them with General Evans and have them be responsive to his day to day direction (reserving proper NRO decisions for you and keeping me thoroughly informed).

I believe all MOL program direction (worthy of being set forth in written correspondence or messages) should be issued by the MOL Project Director, requiring, however, that all direction to General Martin have your concurrence (or Mr. Reber or me, for you). At the same time, the flow of information upward should go through the same channels. Since it is almost impossible to define the kinds of direction which could go direct, it appears that we must establish a concept of "all direction" through the MOL Program Director. Telephone guidance and direction of any significance from you to General Martin should subsequently be confirmed in writing through the Director, MOL.

As far as the Staff is concerned, I am content to provide one man or several to the MOL Office. If you share General Martin's concern, then two or three of General Evans' people (Colonel Norman, Colonel Copely, Major Haas) should be assigned to the NRO Staff and detailed full-time, along with another SAFSS project officer, to the MOL Office. This proposition might horrify General Evans; however, I assure you it would not alter their working relationships with him, or lessen any other support by the NRO Staff. Further, I should be constrained from tasking these people for anything other than MOL matters.

General Evans and I should discuss this overall subject with you ASAP.



JAMES T. STEWART
Brigadier General, USAF
Director, NRO Staff

cc: General Evans

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