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SEP 9 1966

MEMORANDUM TO ASSISTANT FOR R&D PROGRAMMING (AFRRP/
Col F. J. Hoermann)

SUBJECT: MOL Program Reclama on Draft Presidential
Memorandum

The following information is submitted to be in-
cluded in the Department of the Air Force reclama to the
Secretary of Defense on the FY 67-68 MOL Program.

PROPOSED REPLY:

The results of extensive studies conducted during
the MOL Definition Phase have confirmed our estimate
that the first manned system test can be launched in
late 1969. We have not identified anything technically
as a result of our studies that would prevent us from
achieving this goal. Further, contract negotiations
currently underway with each of the associate contractors
for full-scale engineering development are being negotiated
on a baseline schedule which calls for the first manned
system test in late 1969. Specifically, the seven flights
are now planned as follows:

1. First unmanned flight in April 1969 for
the uprated TIIC and a suborbital qualification of
Gemini B;
2. Second unmanned flight in July 1969 for
the orbital qualification of the uprated Titan IIIC
laboratory subsystem.
3. Third flight in December 1969. It will be
manned and followed by four all-up MOL flights at approxi-
mately three to four month intervals.

In addition, the Department of Defense Appropriation
Bill for 1967 includes an increase of \$50 million for the
MOL Program over the President's budget. These additional
funds were included on the strength of information provided

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by the Department of the Air Force and in recognition that failure to provide the additional funds would endanger the scheduled first manned flight in late 1969.

The delay for initiating full-scale engineering development from early September 1966 to early November 1966 does not induce a 2-month slip to the MOL flight schedule, since interim authorization was given the Director, MOL in late August 1966 to obligate the necessary program funds in order to protect development lead time. This direction to protect schedule dates is being carried out. The additional \$50 million for MOL, when appropriated by Congress and released by the Department of Defense, will increase the level of new funding in FY 67 to \$228 million which is consistent with the recommendation of the Secretary of the Air Force to the Secretary of Defense last December on the minimum level of funding for MOL during FY 67.

The MOL Program Plan and Funding Requirements document recently submitted to the DDR&E stated and supported a FY 68 funding requirement of \$556.8 million to continue with MOL development without affecting the primary objective or schedule. This is still Department of the Air Force best judgment of the funds required for FY 1968 to meet program needs. Any adjustment in total program costs and FY funding requirements will be reported at the time of review of the negotiated contract costs. This review is presently scheduled for late October 1966.

In summary, the technical baseline for the MOL system as derived from definition studies, permits development to proceed on an orderly basis to achieve the initial launch of a manned system in late 1969; provided, adequate fiscal year funds are available to fully support achievable technical progress. Attached to this memorandum is a proposed line in-line out correction to that portion of the Draft Presidential Memorandum addressed to the MOL Program.

original estimate of \$1.5 billion to approximately \$375

million. Firm costs figures available in late

September 1966. Based on the D HARRY L. EVANS

Major General, USAF
Vice Director, MOL Program

1 Atch
a/s

Copy to:

Dr. Flax

SAF-SL Official File
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SCG Read

Col Randall/SAF-SLP/8Sep66/1d/53889

SIGNED

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D. Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL)

The MOL program received Presidential approval in August 1965. Contract definition is now complete and negotiations will be completed by November 1966. Based on using adequate time to develop and check out the primary experiment, the first manned system test will be launched in ~~early-1970~~ late 1969 or possibly ~~late-1969~~ early 1970. Seven flights are now planned as follows:

1. First unmanned flight in ~~June-1969~~ April 1969 for the uprated Titan IIIC and a suborbital qualification of Gemini B;

2. Second unmanned flight in ~~September-1969~~ July 1969 for the orbital qualification of the uprated Titan IIIC and laboratory subsystems;

3. Third flight in ~~January-1970~~ December 1969. It will be manned and followed by four all-up MOL flights at approximately 3-4 month intervals.

Contract definition indicates that the minimum funding required to meet program objectives will exceed the original estimate of \$1.5 billion by approximately \$375 million. Firm costs figures will be available in late November 1966. Based on the Department of the Air Force

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comments and an increase of \$50 million for the MOL
Program in the Department of Defense Appropriation Bill
for 1967 I have recommended new funding of ~~\$178-million~~
~~\$228 million~~ in FY 1967 (use of prior year funds raises
this to ~~\$253-million~~ \$303 million for FY 67) and ~~\$480~~
~~million~~ \$556.8 million in FY 1968. Any adjustment in
total program costs and fiscal year funding requirement
will be reported at the time of review of the negotiated
MOL contract costs.

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