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FEB 7 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Astronomical Mission for MOL

As you know, during the past several months we have had discussions with NASA regarding the employment of MOL and its DORIAN sensor for astronomical missions. We have provided them with optical system descriptions and answered all the necessary queries about system characteristics. We have asked them to provide us discussions of astronomical uses of MOL and the DORIAN sensor in three stages of complexity:

- a. Without any modifications.
- b. With some additional equipment provided within the Laboratory Module.
- c. With modifications to the optical system.

It is our understanding that although Dr. Henry J. Smith, who was NASA's key negotiator on the subject, had prepared a mission paper on the first subject area, it has not yet been released to us. There appeared to be management problems at Dr. Seamans' level regarding NASA's participation in a MOL astronomy mission.

Judging from the agenda for the next meeting of the Manned Space Flight Policy Committee scheduled for February 9, apparently the question of the use of DORIAN optics for astronomical and/or planetary observations will be raised. Appended for your information and use are copies of prior correspondence provided to you on this subject. I recommend the following position be taken:

- a. The DORIAN Optical System is a national resource of unusual capability which should be put to all possible uses in the national interest.

DORIAN

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b. The DORIAN Optical System can contribute to astronomical and planetary observations and efforts should be put forth to determine those national observation requirements which may be satisfied by the DORIAN instrument.

c. Policy issues relative to the use of both the instrument and its product are important but can be defined and solved with more certainty once technical applications for astronomical and planetary observations have been established.

I further believe that, in view of possible Congressional discussions on the use of MOL hardware for NASA advanced missions, we should be prepared to address the astronomy question regardless of NASA's internal position. Therefore, should the meeting on February 9 indicate that NASA does not wish to pursue the use of the DORIAN instrument further, then I recommend that an ad hoc MOL astronomy panel be formed to study the scientific merits of the MOL sensor in astronomical and planetary observations. Members of this panel should be drawn from a cleared group such as Dr. Minell, Dr. Purcell and some of the other astronomers who are currently in the PSAC/NAS cleared circuit.

I have provided copies of the attachments to DDR&E. I have not provided them a copy of this memo.

SIGNED

HARRY L. EVANS
Major General, USAF
Vice Director, MOL Program

3 Atchs

Gen Evans/7Feb67/rad

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SLM Official File
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Atchs:

1. Memo for Flad, 28 Dec 66, BYE 21302466
2. Memo for Flad, 26 Oct 66, BYE 21245-66
3. Ltr to Dr Newell, 4 Aug 66, BYE 21196-66.

Not Attached

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