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6 January 1965

Meeting with Dr. McMillan on MOL

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

1. At Dr. McMillan's request, I attended a meeting at 0830, 6 January, in his office. Other attendees were Dr. Flax, Colonel Strand, and his Assistant Executive. Dr. McMillan indicated that he had received the attached directive from DDR&E on the MOL program and that it required several rapid implementing actions. His first statement was directed to me and he requested that I return to duty from my current leave status. He indicated that pending further arrangements, my office would be General Stewart's conference room and he further asked Dr. Flax to arrange with the organization of the JCS for my release, effective immediately.

His second point related to the security aspects of the MOL program. He felt that a letter should be prepared to Mr. McCone which would outline relevant national policy and DoD policy concerning reconnaissance and inform Mr. McCone on the manner in which the security aspects of the MOL program would be handled. He stated that this was an action which he personally would take.

The next point which was assigned as an action item to me was to draft a directive relative to the RFP which was to be released subsequent to 15 January to select the three (3) contractors outlined in paragraph 12 of the attached directive. This directive, he indicated, should be presented to the MOL Policy Committee prior to its presentation to Dr. Brown.

The next item was the preparation of a plan outlining the presentation and briefing to Dr. Brown on 15 January. He indicated that this briefing would go beyond the RFP problem outlined above.

The next subject discussed was the portion of the attached directive relating to the assembly of large optic structures in orbit. His first statement was that he would ask General Greer to proceed with several black study contracts. I argued the point as to whether these contracts should be black or white and it was agreed that they could be white. However, at this point Dr. McMillan still felt that General Greer should let these study contracts. In connection with this discussion, Dr. McMillan



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asked Dr. Flax to obtain the consultant services of a nationally known structures expert, the intent apparently being that this structures expert should work with optics experts to define further appropriate studies which should be conducted. Dr. Flax mentioned the name of Nicholas Hoff and an Aerospace employee whose name I think is Arch Smith. Both of these individuals apparently will be contacted by Dr. Flax.

The next subject discussed was the Navy need for sea surveillance. Dr. McMillan indicated that he wanted to get two (2) highly qualified Navy people cleared for his programs so that they could make more sensible plans to fulfill the Navy's need. He also indicated that it was desirable to obtain a highly qualified naval officer for the MOL Pentagon office. I suggested a Captain Andrews be checked for proper technical background and availability.

Dr. McMillan then discussed briefly a conversation he had yesterday with Admiral Boone of NASA. Apparently NASA tabled a proposal for an ad hoc study group to fulfill the objectives set forth in the attached memorandum. This proposal which involved a low-level ad hoc group chaired by me was indicated as unacceptable by Dr. McMillan who said he would respond to NASA indicating the general parameters around which studies should be conducted. The most significant point made by Dr. McMillan was that a decision as to whether there would be a manned military space program was Mr. McNamara's decision but that if such a decision was favorably made, then NASA would have collateral responsibility on the extent and use of NASA hardware and on the extent to which the manned military space program would support NASA objectives. It was agreed that a statement of requirements would be prepared for NASA's guidance incorporating a detailed statement of the objectives contained in paragraphs 1a, b, and c of the attached directive.

The Under Secretary then detailed the Assistant Executive to work with me for the next few weeks and indicated that Mr. Frank Ross would receive special clearances and would also be working with me. Dr. Flax indicated that General Ferguson would be brought up to date on the latest actions.

HARRY L. EVANS
Brigadier General, USAF

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DDR&E Memo for SAFUS,
4 Jan 65, subj: MOL

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