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February 12, 1964

MEMORANDUM TO DIRECTOR, NRO STAFF

SUBJECT: NRO Policy

References: (a) Letter, DNRD to DCI, 10 Dec 63,  
with attachments  
(b) Memo, DNRD to SecDef, 7 Feb 64  
(c) Memo, DNRD to Directors, Program A,  
Program B, 10 Dec 63

Reference (a) describes a management plan for the CORONA system and sets forth the basis for general NRO policy with respect to the following matters:

1. Responsibilities and authorities of the proposed director of the CORONA project;
2. The institution of changes and improvements to the CORONA system;
3. The planning and execution of studies toward new developments;
4. The planning and execution of new developments.

Reference (b) adds further material on these matters, and reference (c) institutes some specific procedures in implementation thereof. Collectively, these references define a rather broad policy with respect to planning and institution of changes and new developments, specifically in reference to CORONA.

ALL INFORMATION CONTAINED  
HEREIN IS UNCLASSIFIED

Control System

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I desire that you prepare a document summarizing the basic policies that are set forth in the references, recommending any changes or expansions that you consider desirable. The purpose of this document is to provide a convenient unified statement of the material, for reference.

Some items of policy not completely defined by the references are given below, for inclusion, if desirable, in your summary.

A. Planning, design, engineering, and incorporation of specific system changes will be authorized, and assigned for accomplishment, by decision of DMRD.

B. Authorized planning, design, and engineering of changes will be conducted under contracts separate from those under which normal operations are conducted.

C. I consider that DMRD approval will be required for, among others, any change in the system which alters the format or content of any part of the product, for any change that alters the format or flexibility of planning or control of missions, for any change that requires prior flight testing, or for any change that requires more than, say, [redacted] of engineering effort.

D. Any change that requires extensive flight testing, or one that alters such things as the size or nature of the product material, the controlling dimensions of the prime sensor, the amount of recovered material, the mode of recovery, or the basic philosophy of design of the prime sensor, I consider to be so sweeping in character as to be classed as a "new development." Thus classified, such a change would have to be judged for desirability against other potential new developments.

Signed

Brockway McKillen  
Director

[redacted] National Reconnaissance Office

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