

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

3 March 1964

Dear Bennie,

This confirms recent conversations about details of the MOL program. Experiments related to reconnaissance will attempt to determine man's capability, with appropriate aids, to point an instrument with accuracy better than 1/2 mile, to adjust for image motion to better than 0.2 percent, and to focus precisely (if this is necessary). Experiments will be conducted on the ground, in aircraft, and if required, in orbit. These objectives will be classified under normal military security as SECRET, and simply stated as objectives without any indication as to how they may compare with existing or projected unmanned capability. All MOL development plans and briefings in relation to reconnaissance objectives will be confined to these particular objectives and every step will be taken to avoid sponsoring or encouraging any efforts to propose actual reconnaissance capability or to describe the estimated state of the art in satellite reconnaissance.

To be conducted under normal military SECRET, pointing, IMC, and focus experiments will be performed using a telescopic system. Photography of reconnaissance quality will not be used to record or verify performance. Pointing accuracy can be recorded with a simple collimated camera of resolution easily available from unclassified equipment. IMC performance can be recorded by photographing stars or by use of long exposures. Focus experiments, if necessary, can be conducted at such magnification that reconnaissance conditions are simulated without being duplicated. All AFSC in-house and contractor work, including discussions with contractors, will be confined to these objectives. I wish to review the RFP's and work statements of all contracts related to these experiments or to their study.

Photography of quality approaching that needed for reconnaissance may be undertaken on some orbital flights. An experimental camera now held under special security may be made available as GFE for this purpose. Every effort will be made to have this equipment declassified before it is installed.

MSR 64-574
Copy 1 of 6 Copies
Page 1 of 2 Pages.
Control No. 640129

Prior to such declassification, your MOL organization will have a few people cleared for knowledge of the equipment, for exchange of necessary interface and environmental data.

Consideration will be given to testing a side-looking radar on orbital flights late in the program. Assume for the present that this equipment will be GFE, developed under special classification but declassified prior to use. More complete determination of the content and classification of this test will be made after presently planned classified tests are completed.

Sincerely,



Brockway McMillan
Under Secretary of the Air Force

General B. A. Schriever
Commander
Air Force Systems Command
Andrews Air Force Base