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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

Functions: NRO  
Security: Policy

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

4 MAR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF  
DEFENSE (ARMS CONTROL)

SUBJECT: Project DORIAN Access

Reference: BYE-5080/66

The Department of Defense's MOL program, as presently planned, is no more unique in its applicability to arms control and disarmament than any other satellite system within the National Reconnaissance Program. Viewed in perspective, MOL represents only one additional step in the improvement of an intelligence collection capability which began over five years ago. Clearances for personnel at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency have been provided in this broader context.

As an independent agency, ACDA has need for awareness of DOD reconnaissance programs for several functional specialists. Within the DOD, however, these functions are divided among several different offices with the NRO serving as a focal point. The NRO Staff is prepared to assist you, should a legitimate need in connection with arms control matters arise, on technical, operational and administrative matters relating to the MOL program.

The MOL program is more vulnerable to international criticism than other satellite reconnaissance programs simply because it reintroduces the concept of a man - a military man - performing intelligence functions over denied areas. This vulnerability and the prejudicial effect it could have on the total National Reconnaissance Program were considered at length prior to the approval of MOL last August.

Because of this vulnerability, and because of the publicity which has already been associated with the program, I would be most concerned if MOL were singled out for special consideration in connection

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DIAXX-3A CONTROLLED

DORIAN

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with arms control and disarmament. I would expect a very modest level of staff activity in your office or in ACDA regarding MOL. If this situation should change, I would appreciate your calling it to my immediate attention. If warranted, I would then be pleased to consider your specific requirements for additional clearances.

*Alexander H. Flax*

Alexander H. Flax  
Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

cc: Mr. McNaughton, ASD/ISA

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