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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MAR 14 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY DIRECTOR, MOL PROGRAM

SUBJECT: MOL Priorities

Attached for your information are copies of recent correspondence addressing the MOL priorities question. Dr. Flax has advised me informally that he feels no sense of urgency at this time for a decision on the Brick Bat .01/DX matter; he has therefore taken no action with respect to the implementing paperwork.

One aspect of the priorities question which particularly concerns me arises from the recent impact of Southeast Asia requirements on lead times for certain materials and vendor items. Of particular interest in this regard are forgings, extrusions, electronic components, gears, copper wire and cable, bearings, and alloys of molybdenum, vanadium, tungsten, and chromium. Lead time quotes by suppliers of these items and materials have increased substantially over mid-1965 levels; there is some evidence that the situation is still deteriorating.

The MOL Program Office has conducted a preliminary review of this situation during the past week. This survey, while not wholly conclusive, indicates a possible need for a review in depth of current and projected lead time requirements for MOL. Contacts with the Business and Defense Services Administration (BDSA) of the Department of Commerce, the Joint Aeronautical Materials Activity (JAMAC), and other agencies responsible for administration of the national priorities system, have elicited the following ROM lead time requirements for new orders:

Forgings and Extrusions (requiring new dies)	52 weeks
Forgings and Extrusions (from existing dies)	40 weeks
Precision Gears	32 weeks
Electronic Parts	17 weeks
Bearings	17 weeks

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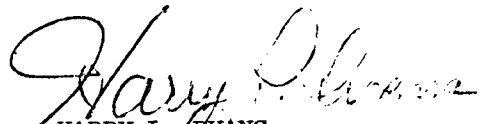
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Request you test your schedules and procurement planning against these typical lead times. Should this procedure indicate a potential impact on MOL schedules or the present MOL funding structure, please advise me without delay.

If it is at all possible to isolate and identify priority-related problems, I believe that it is important to do so now. Your message MP-4 22506 Feb 66 discusses potential problem areas in general terms. It would be useful in the present circumstances if you could develop these, or any other, areas of concern into specific and reasonably well-substantiated deficiencies, either actual or projected. Your discussion of such deficiencies, if any exist, should include an evaluation of how a DX rating for MOL would improve the situation.



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

- 3 Atchs  
1. Memo for Dr. Flax fr  
Gen Schriever, dtd Feb 3,  
1966  
2. Prop memo for DepSecDef  
fr Dr. Flax  
3. Talking paper on MOL  
priorities

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FEB 3 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: MOL Priority

The present status of the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Program with respect to DOD Master Urgency List category, and associated industrial priority, is deemed inconsistent with the scope and urgency of the MOL effort. I recommend your signature on the attached memorandum to Mr. Vance requesting assignment of Category S (BRICK-BAT .01) military urgency status, and DX industrial priority, to MOL.

SIGNED

B. A. SCRIEVER  
General, USAF  
Director, MOL Program

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MEMORANDUM FOR MR. VANCE

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory Priorities

The Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program is presently carried in DOD Master Urgency List Category 1 (CUE-SAF), Unlisted. In my judgment, the scope and urgency of the MOL effort warrant assignment of Category 3 (BRICK-BAT .01) military urgency designator, and **DX** industrial priority, to MOL.

I have elected to approach you directly in this matter rather than proceed as outlined in DOD Instruction 4410.3 principally because of the unusual security environment surrounding MOL. The rationale for BRICK-BAT .01/DX recognition for the program is largely derived from the National Reconnaissance Office mission assigned to MOL. The association between the MOL reconnaissance function and the publicly-announced MOL Program clearly must be protected. Within the constraints of this protection, I believe it essential that priorities consistent with those assigned to other space systems supporting the National Reconnaissance Program be assigned to the MOL/DORIAN effort.

It seems clear, in view of the openly announced aspect of MOL, that it will not be practical to establish a wholly covert priorities structure, as has been the case with GAMBIT. Neither is it practical, in my opinion, to prepare a viable justification for top national priority without reference to the MOL reconnaissance mission.

In addition to the security aspects of the MOL priorities question, I am concerned about the relative priorities of the Apollo and MOL programs. As you know, the Air Force is committed to the fullest possible use of existing NASA capabilities and hardware. One result of this commitment

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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will be large-scale joint use of contractors, subcontractors, vendors, test support resources, and facilities. The existing wide disparity between MOL and Apollo priorities might well, in these circumstances, result in serious impact upon MOL schedules and costs. I believe it essential to maintain a reasonable priorities balance between the two programs. I do not, however, believe that the national interest is served by submitting this question to open examination and debate at the various approval levels normally involved in processing a nomination for BRICK-BAT .01/IX priority.

In light of these circumstances, I request your assistance in establishing BRICK-BAT .01/IX status for MOL. I am attaching for your reference extracts from applicable correspondence addressing the urgency of the MOL/DORIAN effort, and a short paper dealing with the extent of joint use of resources between MOL/DORIAN and the GAMBIT and Apollo programs.

DORIAN/GAMBIT

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EXTRACTS FROM MNL CORRESPONDENCE

Memorandum for the President from the Secretary of  
Defense, dated August 24, 1965, subject: Manned  
Orbiting Laboratory:

"I believe that there is a vital national  
need for reconnaissance photography at a  
resolution of [REDACTED]. The  
first and obvious need is for technical  
intelligence. There is also a clear need,  
particularly during times of crisis, for high  
resolution photography of tactical objectives.  
Closely related to these applications is the  
potential use of high resolution photography  
to assist in the policing of arms control  
agreements."

Letter to Honorable Alexander H. Flax, Assistant  
Secretary of the Air Force, from Donald F. Hornig,  
Special Assistant for Science and Technology, dated  
November 22, 1965:

"The panel is convinced that a high resolu-  
tion [REDACTED] orbital reconnais-  
sance system is a high priority national  
goal."

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The existing MOL priorities environment can be summarized as follows: Every MOL associate contractor, and most presently-identified subcontractors, have contractual commitments not only to MOL, but to ERICSSON .01/DK programs controlled by agencies outside the MOL management structure. In these circumstances, MOL shares resources, capabilities, and facilities for all phases and facets of system acquisition with programs having substantially higher precedence. Of particular interest in this regard are the relative priorities of MOL and Apollo.

The remarks which follow are not intended to imply that specific resource allocation problems have been identified, or that MOL schedules are presently endangered as a result of priorities difficulties. The contrary is the case. The MOL contractor structure was selected, at least in part, on the basis of capacity to produce to MOL schedules in spite of higher-priority commitments. Nonetheless, an environment has been created within which any MOL/Apollo allocations problem controlled by the national priorities system will impact first, and most severely, upon MOL. In view of the scope and urgency of the MOL/ERICSSON effort, this situation would appear to be inconsistent with the national interest. The national space program would be

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better served by a balanced priorities system in which  
MOL/Apollo priorities problems could be resolved consciously,  
rather than mechanically. As a practical matter, such balance  
is most easily achieved by assignment of BRICKBAT .01/DX  
priorities to MOL.

The following matrix is intended to convey an appreciation  
for the nature of the industrial interface between MOL and  
Gemini/Apollo. The MOL laboratory module contractor organiza-  
tion provides a typical set of relationships; similar  
circumstances can be defined for Gemini B, the Titan III  
booster, crew equipment, and test operations resources.

MOL/APOLLO INDUSTRIAL INTERFACE

LAB VEHICLE

<u>MOL Element</u>	<u>Supplier</u>	<u>Apollo/Gemini Element</u>
Laboratory Vehicle	Douglas, Hunting- ton Beach Facility	Saturn V Development S IVB stage
Attitude Control & Translation Subsystem	Minneapolis- Honeywell	Apollo Stabilization & Control System
Environmental Control & Life Support Sub- system	United Aircraft Corporation	Apollo (LEM) Life Support Equipment
Electrical Power Subsystem	United Aircraft Corporation	Apollo Pacl. Coll. Powerplant
Communications Subsystem	Collins Radio	Apollo Communications & Data Subsystem

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SATURN AND APOLLO

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The situation depicted above is in fact only a partial  
accounting of the whole MOL/Apollo industrial relationship for  
the Lab Vehicle. The priorities structure will extend from  
the major subcontractors shown through several tiers of vendors  
and suppliers.

A second major area in which present MOL priorities appear  
to be inconsistent with the nature and objectives of the program  
is in the existing disparity between MOL and GAMBIT priorities.  
The FORNAN payload is essentially dependent upon the same  
resources which support Program 205. In the event of resource  
allocation problems, and in the absence of active intervention  
by the cognizant NRO agency, MOL requirements will defer to  
GAMBIT requirements. It seems clear that it may not always be  
in the national interest to determine precedence in this auto-  
matic fashion. The National Reconnaissance Program would be  
better served by a balanced priorities system relating MOL and  
GAMBIT. Again, the simplest approach to the required balance is  
to provide MOL with BRICKBAT .01/DX status.

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