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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
MANNED ORBITING LABORATORY, SYSTEMS PROGRAM OFFICE (OSAF)
AF UNIT POST OFFICE, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA 90045

6 AUG 1968

SAFSL-1

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL STEWART

SUBJECT: Schedule and Funding Problems Associated with the
Acquisition of COMSEC Hardware, SCF Hardware and
SCF Engineering Support for MOL (U)

(S/SAR) (Gp-1) Serious problems are being encountered by the AFSCF Communications Support Office in acquiring support for the MOL Program. One problem is due to OSD slipping programmed funds necessary to provide hardware and contractor engineering support for MOL. Of equal importance, but not related to the funding problem, is the continuing pattern of late deliveries of secure communications (COMSEC) hardware from the National Security Agency (NSA). Assistance from your office is requested on our behalf to help resolve these problems.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) The specifics of the funding problem are as follows:

1. OTEF/MCC Interface Hardware, Modems and Other Ancillary Equipments - the SCF requests for FY '68 and FY '69 funding to initiate OTEF/MCC interface hardware, modems and other ancillary equipment procurements for MOL have been deferred by the Office of the Secretary of Defense. An Expanded Communication Electronic System (EXCELS) end item identical to those being procured by the SCF Remote Tracking Stations has been selected to interface a major segment of the MOL Mission Simulator in the Operations and Training Evaluation Facility (OTEF) at VAFB with the MOL Mission Control Center (MCC) at Sunnyvale. This interface must be operational on 15 March 1971, nine months before the first manned flight. Approximately eight and one-half months are required before this operational date for installation and checkout. The normal SCF procurement cycle for this unit is thirty months from initiation of RFP activities until hardware production and acceptance is complete. As the schedule and lead time indicate, it is not possible to delay the procurement activities until the start of FY '70; in fact, expediting of certain phases of the procurement and acquisition cycle must be effected now to meet the operational need date. Another factor to be considered is that the AFSCF is currently procuring seven EXCELS units with production on the final unit being completed in December of this year. Some advantages should be realized if the unit for MOL could be acquired while the production facilities and personnel were still available from this AFSCF procurement. A similar problem with the same schedule constraints exists for the modems and other ancillary equipments. To meet the need dates, FY '69 funds required to support this effort are estimated at \$1,100,000. The type of money used for this effort, if funded by the SCF, precludes incremental funding.

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2. Contractor Engineering Support for the Operational Training and Evaluation Facility (OTEF) - An element considered to be as critical as the hardware procurement is the requirement to obtain early contractor systems engineering support to design the OTEF Long Line Communications System. This system is separate from the EXCELS effort described in paragraph 2a. No effort is currently underway to provide such a systems design as this requirement was also deferred by OSD for FY'69. An unsolicited proposal from a potential vendor has estimated that this task will take 22 months from authority to proceed until the MOL OTEF Long Line Communications System would be operational and that it would cost \$150,000. Assuming six months from initial advertisement until authority to proceed, a total of 28 months is required for the OTEF effort. We consider this a valid period of time. Based on the OTEF operational dates, this effort must be initiated now.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) The specifics of the schedule problem are as follows:

1. Late COMSEC Hardware Deliveries - In the first instance, metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) chips were to be provided by NSA for use in the MOL Secure Voice System. NSA failed to deliver on schedule and did not inform us that delivery would be late until the delivery date was passed. The overall delay of the MOL Program for other reasons permitted resolution of this problem with no impact. In the second instance, the modification of a COMSEC device for MOL was involved. Early in 1967, a delivery schedule was jointly established, and MOL funds were provided to the NSA, the final increment being in September 1967. The first units were scheduled for April 1968 delivery for use in the Laboratory Module Development Test Unit (EDCTU). In April, NSA informed MOL for the first time that they did not go on contract until January of this year (six months later than expected), and, as a result, delivery of the first units would be at least four months late. While work-arounds and program delays have permitted successful resolution of this problem also, continuation of this practice is not acceptable.

2. Concern for Late Deliveries in the Future - Late deliveries in the future can seriously jeopardize overall MOL schedules. The problem can be further complicated by the failure of NSA to give adequate notice of a late delivery so that effective work-arounds can be established. Our concern is also shared by the SCF. If late deliveries continue, the cost impact to the program could be as high as \$1M per month if flight schedules are not actually impacted and up to \$1M per day where flight schedules are impacted.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) Program funds will have to be used and program delays will occur if these problems are not resolved now. The following support from your office on our behalf is requested:

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1. To effect the reinstatement of those FY'69 funds necessary to satisfy SCF requirements for MOL. These funds (\$1,250,000) were specifically requested in the following document:

AFSCF Command, Control and Communications
Program C3P - Dated 15 Dec 1967
CEMPAC Code 6QD
DOD Program Element Code 6.54.02.07F

These funds are in the 8400 Object Class Code and are for 3080 Ground Communications Acquisition. The request for these funds were disallowed by the Office of the Secretary of Defense.

2. To set up, on a continuing basis in the Washington MOL Program Office, an activity to exercise surveillance of MOL COMSEC equipment requirements. This activity should undertake the actions necessary in the Washington area to assure timely delivery of equipment. A priority for the MOL Program with the NSA may need to be established. Implicit in this activity is the establishment of the proper lines of communication with NSA which will insure early notification of incipient delivery problems. This activity should also, on a continuing basis, support MOL's case for adequate funding in succeeding years to satisfy MOL COMSEC and SCF support requirements. Such an activity currently exists in General Berg's office, and has proved of great benefit to that organization.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) The MOL Systems Office and the AFSCF will provide all support necessary to justify the need for this equipment, to assess the impact of late delivery or inadequate funding, and to provide any other detailed information your office may require. We would appreciate your reaction on these requests at the earliest possible time.

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Suggested Memo to
Director, NSA (S/SAR)

J. S. Blymaier
J. S. BLEYMAIER
Major General, USAF
Deputy Director, MOL

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SAFSL-1

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, NATIONAL SECURITY AGENCY

SUBJECT: Delivery Problems Associated with COMSEC Equipment for
MOL (U)

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) I am deeply concerned over late deliveries of certain COMSEC equipment for the MOL Program. The MOL Program schedules may suffer costly delays unless the situation improves. I would appreciate your assistance in resolving these difficulties.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) Our concern is based on the following two occurrences which describe two such late deliveries. In the first instance, metal oxide semiconductor (MOS) chips were to be provided by your agency for use in the MOL Secure Voice System. Delivery was not on schedule, and we were not informed that delivery would be late until the scheduled delivery date had passed. The second instance involves the modification of a COMSEC device for which MOL funds were provided. In early 1967, a delivery schedule was jointly established with NSA, and necessary funds were transferred, with the final increment in September 1967. The first units were scheduled for April 1968 delivery for use in MOL development testing. In April, NSA informed us for the first time that a contract was not let until January of this year, six months later than planned, and, as a result, delivery of the first units would be at least four months late. The two events discussed involve the first deliveries of a rather large amount of COMSEC equipment to MOL over the next 3 to 4 years. We are further

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concerned that these situations are indicative of similar problems to expect in the future.

(S/SAR)(Gp-1) The Air Force Satellite Control Facility Communications Support Office at the Air Force Space & Missile Systems Organization in Los Angeles, California will continue to identify our MOL Program COMSEC requirements to you. However, please do not hesitate to communicate with my office so that we may assist you in resolving any problem that may affect timely hardware delivery to MOL. We sincerely appreciate all efforts you may take in our behalf.

/s/ General Stewart

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