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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OCT 7 1968

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Manned Orbiting Laboratory Monthly Status Report

The attached Status Report on the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program covers activities through September 30, 1968 and is submitted in accordance with the September 17, 1968 memorandum from the Office of the Secretary.

JAMES FERGUSON
General, USAF
Director, MOL Program

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a/s

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I. PROBLEM

Schedule and Funding Problem Associated with Acquisition of
Secure Communication Hardware for MOL

As explained last month, the Office of the Secretary of Defense deferred the FY 1968 and FY 1969 funding needs to initiate procurement of the Operations and Training Evaluation Facility (OTEF) and MOL Mission Control Center secure communications. We have examined the problem and found an alternative which will permit immediate procurement of the engineering design work, delay to FY 1970 the hardware procurement, and at the same time not damage the schedule. The procurement cycle to implement the alternative is being prepared and Air Staff funds (\$0.250M) are being requested to buy the engineering design work. The Air Staff reaction to the fund request is not presently known.

II. CHANGE PAST MONTH

A. FY 1970 Budget Submission

In the Air Force review of the FY 1970 budget the reduction in the MOL Program Element from \$600 million to \$575 million was sustained. The recent program rescheduling was based on FY 1969/FY 1970 fund availability of \$515/\$600 million respectively. Therefore, it is clear that an incompatibility between funds and schedule will develop in FY 1970. No adjustment will be attempted until after the outstanding effort is negotiated and placed on contract next summer and the effects can be judged more accurately.

B. Easter Island - Implementation Agreement

The Joint Search and Rescue Agreement that was negotiated and signed July 26, 1968 by representatives of the Chilean and U. S. Air Force does not become effective until the Chilean Minister of Defense informs the U. S. Embassy of his concurrence. As of October 1, the Embassy had not received notification of approval.

III. CURRENT STATUS

A. Funds

During September a memorandum was sent to DDR&E requesting the release of \$135 million to fund the MOL Program through the second quarter of FY 1969. The release was approved and funds were received

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by the Air Force the first week of October. Immediate release of \$140 million was made to the MOL Systems Office and \$5 million was retained by Director, MOL.

To date, \$300 million of the \$515 million approved for FY 1969 has been released by DDR&E. Release of the remaining funds retained by DDR&E will be requested in December.

B. Fuel Cell Competition

In response to a request for proposal from McDonnell Douglas for a new MOL electrical power generation system (fuel cell) bids have been received from General Electric, Allis-Chalmers and Pratt Whitney. Evaluation is currently in process by McDonnell Douglas. Authority to proceed with the work will be furnished by November 15, 1968.

C. IVS Ad Hoc Review Group

A review group was convened in response to instructions by General Ferguson to consider the status of the MOL Image Velocity Sensing System development status on September 20 and 21, 1968. The committee was chaired by Dr. Brian O'Brien and included the following members. Dr. B. McMillan, Mr. W. C. McFadden, Dr. M. I. Yarymovych, Mr. L. Crouch and Colonel Lew Allen.

Their conclusions were that the Hycon and Goodyear IVS devices should meet MOL tracking accuracy requirements under most conditions, and that the Itek device is too far behind (disposition of the latter effort is under study). Recommendations were made to improve simulator testing and with regard to cloud effects.

D. Congressional Action

In response to a request from Senator Russell through OSD, an unclassified statement in support of the MOL Program was provided. The statement was part of a number of items requested in preparation for the Senate Debate on the Appropriations Bill, and in anticipation of an amendment proposed by Senator Clark. This amendment included deletion of FY 1969 funds for MOL.

As a separate action, the following Chief Staff Assistants were contacted: Mr. James Gehrig, Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences; Mr. William Woodruff, Senate Committee on Appropriations, and Mr. William Darden, Senate Committee on Armed Services. All three agreed that additional MOL documentation might be useful to them during the debate. We provided them with copies of a paper originally prepared for Congressman Rivers (but not previously used in Congress), also with copies of our rebuttal to the Congressional Quarterly article of June 28.

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E. Analysis of the MOL Waste Management System for its Possible Use in the NASA Apollo Application Program

Dr. Werhner von Braun, Director of the NASA Marshall Space-flight Center will inspect the MOL Waste Management System at Fairchild-Hiller (Republic Aviation) in Farmingdale, Long Island, on October 17. NASA has expressed its continuing dissatisfaction with current NASA waste management systems. Dr. von Braun is undertaking a personal survey of other engineering approaches before commitment to a design for the AAP. He has received background data on the MOL system, and was sufficiently impressed by both its design and early engineering and weightless testing to seek a visit to the contractor. MOL Program personnel acquainted with this area will accompany him on the visit to Fairchild-Hiller.

F. NASA-DOD Review of Manned Space Flight Programs

The two Air Force and two NASA studies on manned space flight programs, conducted in response to the 1 August 1968 Terms of Reference on this subject, have been completed. Results of these studies were briefly reported to the AACB at the September 10, 1968 meeting. From information resulting from that meeting and subsequent discussions between DOD and NASA there are indications that no additional study work will follow up these four studies.

The MOL Program Office has been asked to summarize the four studies for DDR&E and this work is in progress.

G. Bureau of the Budget Visit

On September 16 and 17, Mr. Richard Stubbing, BoB, and Mr. Howard Barfield, DDR&E visited the Systems Office and the McDonnell Douglas (WD) at Huntington Beach. Briefings were provided which covered the MOL financial history, schedule, overall program status, and technical overview. Mr. Stubbing replaces Mr. Linder in the BoB Strategic and Space Systems Division.

IV. FORECAST FOR FUTURE

Program Review Council Meeting

A PRC meeting is tentatively scheduled for the afternoon of October 24, 1968 on the West Coast.

V. DUE DATE OF NEXT STATUS REPORT

The next Monthly MOL Program Progress Report will be submitted November 8, 1968.

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