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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON 20330

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

13 January 1969

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 December 31, 1968 and is submitted in accordance with the December 18, 1968 memorandum from the Office of the Secretary.

for J Stewart
JAMES FERGUSON
General, USAF
Director, MOL Program

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I. PROBLEM

None.

II. CHANGE PAST MONTH

During the FY 70 budget review, a reclama for \$1.3 million was approved for communication equipment that interfaces between the MOL simulation equipment at Vandenberg AFB and the Satellite Test Center. The item was originally submitted in the Procurement Appropriation but was transferred to the RDT&E Appropriation and funds approved as part of the MOL Program element.

A requirement for \$5.4 million that would provide the ground launch communications at Vandenberg AFB for the MOL Program was included in a reclama to DoD for Communications - Electronics Equipment in support of AFSC. No response has been received on this reclama. This item will continue to be carried by the Air Force as a valid requirement with funding approval expected during the apportionment cycle.

III. CURRENT STATUS

A. Funds

Funds in the amount of \$215 million were released by DoD in December. With this release the entire FY 1969 NOA of \$515 million is available to the MOL Program. A release of \$160 million was made to the Systems Office to fund third quarter FY 1969 requirements bringing FY 1969 releases to \$455 million. At the end of December, funds in the amount of \$60 million were retained in Headquarters USAF and will be released just prior to the start of the fourth quarter.

B. DDR&E Ad Hoc Group

The DDR&E Ad Hoc Group analyzing the value of MOL-type photography to DoD completed its work and published a three-volume report in early December. The report was submitted to Dr. Foster, who sent copies to Mr. Helms, General Carroll, and Dr. Flax (as DNRO). General Carroll, in turn, furnished copies to the Army, Navy, and Air Force intelligence organizations.

The Program Office is now assisting DIA and ODDR&E representatives in the preparation of a briefing on the Ad Hoc Group study. The briefing is to be available in the latter part of January 1969.

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The letters from General Carroll to the service intelligence chiefs asks for their initial requirements for MOL photography in time for him to present the initial DoD requirements to USIB by April 1, 1969.

C. SLC-6 VAFB MOL Launch Complex Alterations

The construction of SLC-6 is scheduled to be completed April 1969. Several modifications, to incorporate changes that have evolved since 1965 and to correct deficiencies, have been deferred. It is necessary to accomplish some of these modifications (\$1.145M) prior to the initiation of the Aerospace Ground Equipment (AGE) installation and check-out phase, (October 1, 1969). The remaining modifications (\$1.355M) may be accomplished concurrently with the AGE installations. A Fiscal Year 70 Military Construction Program request was submitted with the provision that an early release of \$1.145M would be required to allow the start of modifications in April 1969. The Air Force Office of Civil Engineering (AFOCE) has indicated that the \$1.145M funds are available. Because of the nature of the work a request is being made to designate the Air Force as the Construction Agency for the modifications in lieu of continuing with the Corps of Engineers.

D. MOL Recovery Facilities at VAFB

The initial FY 70 MCP request for MOL Recovery Facilities (\$421K) was disapproved. This package has been reworked to reflect the minimum austere requirements (\$180K) and is being resubmitted. This approach was discussed with AFOCE prior to final submission of the total Air Force FY 70 MCP package and AFOCE states that provisions have been made to accommodate the \$180K reworked package.

E. Briefing Given to Dr. Townes, Space Task Group

General Stewart gave an abbreviated MOL/DORIAN briefing to Dr. Townes, Space Task Group (established by the President-elect) on December 23, 1968, at the National Academy of Science building.

The MOL presentation was part of a brief DoD Space Program overview requested by Dr. Townes.

F. Briefing to COMIREX

General Stewart gave a MOL Program overview briefing to USIB's Committee on Imagery Requirements and Exploitation (COMIREX) on December 19, 1968. [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] The Chairman of COMIREX was particularly interested in proposed targeting procedures for DORIAN missions and operational philosophy. General Stewart indicated that the MOL mission operations would be conducted similar to existing NRP systems; however, due to the many new and unique capabilities of MOL,

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COMIREX should begin at a very early date on target definition and photographic requirements procedures. COMIREX was also advised that consideration would be given soon to defining specific intelligence requirements for on-orbit readout and/or crew oral comments.

G. Easter Island Recovery Staging Base

 and Aerospace Rescue and Recovery Service (ARRS) have drafted a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the joint tenancy of their respective units on Easter Island, with emphasis on maximum utilization of existing USAF support facilities on the island. The MOL Program Office has reviewed the memorandum to insure the support requirements of the MOL Program are properly identified. This office has also tasked the DoD Manager for Manned Space Flight Support (DDMS) with the requirement to prepare a Communications Plan for the recovery staging base.

IV. FORECAST FOR FUTURE

None.

V. DUE DATE FOR NEXT STATUS REPORT

The next monthly MOL Program Progress Report will be submitted February 7, 1969.

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