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DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

25 APR 1969

Dr. McLucas has seen

MEMORANDUM FOR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: PSAC Review of MOL

On April 23, 1969, Air Force and DDR&E representatives met with a PSAC Panel to discuss MOL options. The week before, Mr. Packard had directed Herb Benington of my staff to discuss with Lee DuBridg our analysis of MOL options. After that discussion, DuBridg asked Din Land to have his PSAC Panel review the issue.

John McLucas, Gardiner Tucker, and Herb Benington met with the panel. They asked for the Panel's judgement on the feasibility and desirability of several options we had developed. They stressed that availability of the DoD analysis is being limited to very few people.

In the past, the Panel has always privately favored an exclusively unmanned MOL but officially has gone along with a program that emphasized equally the manned and unmanned versions. At this week's meeting, the Panel was quite disturbed when they heard that the current program (FY 70 of \$525M) provides for only a manned version and will cause at least a two year gap between the first manned flight and the earliest unmanned flight. The Panel strongly favors the resolution that the DORIAN optics will provide. They are very concerned that potential Soviet and free world reactions against manned military reconnaissance will prevent or curtail manned flights. For this reason, they believe an unmanned version is needed from the beginning.

As a result of our discussions, it is clear that the Panel feels that the unmanned option is feasible which combines the HEXAGON launcher and spacecraft with the MOL-DORIAN optics. This system has a maximum life of about 50 days. An unmanned system which uses the larger TITAN III-M launcher would have longer life (80-160 days). The Panel would like to see this alternative explored, possibly after a shorter life system is developed.

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DORIAN GAMBIT HEXAGON

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2.

We do not know what position, if any, the Panel will report officially to Dr. DuBridge or the President. They may express no opinion. They may urge that an unmanned system be vigorously pursued, without commenting on a manned system. They may recommend an unmanned system and cancellation of the manned version. I will keep you informed.

John Foster
John S. Foster, Jr.

cc: Dr. John McLucas

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