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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

UPWARD

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

March 17, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. ~~FLAX~~ *AWF*

SUBJECT: Alternative Operational/Information Plans for
an Earth-Orbiting Test of the UPWARD Camera

Problem:

To report to you on the findings of the Survey Applications Coordinating Committee in developing alternative operational/information plans for an earth-orbiting test of the UPWARD camera.

Background:

At its fourth meeting, on February 9, 1967, the Manned Space Flight Policy Committee directed the Survey Applications Coordinating Committee to "... undertake immediately to devise detailed alternative 'cover' plans for the procedural handling of information related to and products resulting from the earth orbital test flights of the LM and SS (UPWARD). The SACC will report its findings and recommendations to the MSFPC at the earliest possible date."

On February 17, I delivered a DOD-prepared draft set of alternatives. Colonel R. J. Ford, Colonel Dave Carter, Mr. Lou Mazza, and Lt. Colonel W. Yost helped me to prepare this paper. The initial reaction of our DOD group was (predictably) that the proposed UPWARD camera flight was a very hazardous venture from a security point of view, of dubious value from a technical point of view, and should be abandoned. Recognizing, however, that the assigned task was not "Should we do it?" but "How can we do it?", we decided to list all practical alternatives and show their inherent advantages and disadvantages.

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The paper as you now read it is fairly close to our original draft. Significant changes made in numerous conferences are this:

1. The original paper had three additional paragraphs under "Background" pointing out the advisability of canceling the earth-orbital test. These paragraphs were very disturbing to the NASA representatives and we soon began to receive essays defending the test. Rather than have the paper founder on what was developing into an argument, we dropped our own questioning paragraphs and limited ourselves to the exact task stipulated by the MSFPC. Dr. Koslov, at a later meeting, urged a "don't do it at all" option, with no success.
2. The original Alternative 3 specified the release of degraded photography, but did not speak of "the quality of NASA Lunar Orbiter photography." The Lunar Orbiter analog was a NASA invention.

Present Status:

The final paper, agreed to by the SACC, is being distributed to members of the MSFPC.

Discussion:

Interestingly, the NASA representatives see Alternative 3 as the only choice open to any reasonable reader of this paper; the DOD members believe that the same reasonable man would unhesitatingly choose Alternative 4. It is ironical that Alternative 4 was actually suggested to us by the words of Dr. Seamans at the last MSFPC meeting. When asked what he would say if queried about the camera, he said, "I would tell them it was the DOD's; that I didn't know anything about it; to go see the DOD."

Another point worth knowing is that even though the NASA representatives acknowledge the fact that NASA has agreed to TKH handling of earth-orbital UPWARD "take," they will not accept the fact that this will actually be the case. As of today, for instance, Myron Krueger is interested in finding a way to enlarge the film spools, and that only on the earth-orbital flight!

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Recommendation:

It is clear that the optimal solution to this problem is that implicit in Mr. Vance's recent note to you. But, if all else fails, and we are forced to have an earth-orbital performance test (which means live film and real "take"), Alternative 4 is the only solution we have been able to find to what is certainly a very awkward problem.


PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

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