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~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

*Go ahead
and release
paper -
21 Nov 67
AWK*

THE NRO STAFF



MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Release of UPWARD Earth-Orbit Information to Dr. Steininger

PROBLEM:

To determine the advisability of releasing a copy of "Alternative Operational/Information Plans for an Earth Orbiting Test of the UPWARD Camera" to Dr. Don. Steininger.

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 [redacted] [redacted] for the procedural handling of information related to and products resulting from the earth orbital test flights of the LM&SS (UPWARD)." Such a paper was prepared and was distributed to MSFPC members on March 17 (see Tab A).

CURRENT SITUATION:

Dr. Don Steininger called recently to inquire whether he might have a copy of the SACC paper. He recognizes that the paper is presently on the MSFPC agenda for April 20 and that, subsequently, it is to go to the ExCom for further consideration. He is concerned that the rate of closure on the part of both the MSFPC and the ExCom may be inadequate to the urgency of the (earth-orbiting) UPWARD problem. If he had access to the SACC paper, he believes that he might be in a position to make some fairly solid recommendations to Dr. Hornig.

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DISCUSSION:

Releasing the paper to Dr. Steininger has these advantages:

1. It preserves our rapport with Dr. Hornig's office.
2. It opens up the way to a possible independent, constructive action by Dr. Hornig.
3. Even if such an independent action does not materialize, it prepares Dr. Hornig, in depth, for discussion at the ExCom meeting.

And these disadvantages:

1. This action contradicts the planned, orderly movement of the paper from SACC to the MSFPC to the ExCom.
2. There is a possible reaction on the part of the other ExCom members, "Dr. Hornig has a copy of the paper; why don't I have one?"
3. An independent action by Dr. Hornig regarding earth-orbiting UPWARD could possibly be arbitrary and undesirable.

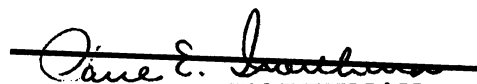
CONCLUSION:

Weighing these advantages and disadvantages, I would place a heavy reliance on:

1. Dr. Steininger's discretion. He has an excellent history in handling matters of this sort.
2. Dr. Hornig's discretion. I doubt that he would take an arbitrary, independent action.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you authorize us to release the paper to Dr. Steininger. (I will emphasize with him the necessity for exceptional prudence in handling this matter).


PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF



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