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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

OCT 12 1967

Honorable Alexander H. Flax
Assistant Secretary of the Air Force
(Research and Development)
Department of the Air Force
The Pentagon
Washington, D. C. 20330

Dear Al:

As you know, NASA is terminating the Lunar Mapping and Survey System (UPWARD) project that has been under development by SSD. In reviewing the many alternatives, we have concluded that it would not be in the best interests of the total space program for NASA to preserve the classified assets that have been created to date during this development. We are therefore taking steps to leave such classified equipment and documentation in the possession of SSD, for their use or disposition as they find appropriate and economical. A summary file of our internal correspondence covering the planning steps and considerations involved in our decisions is attached for your information (Enclosure 1).

We would like to make one exception to the retention of all hardware by SSD: the three ITEK (-9) mapping cameras. The contract to build these units was completed on 30 September 1967 and all deliverables have been accepted by the Air Force. These include two flight units, one engineering unit that could be used as a flight article, ground support equipment and documentation -- all contained in 10 wooden boxes, each 3 feet on a side, awaiting shipment at the contractor's plant. The final disposition of these cameras depends upon whether they can be completely declassified; if this were possible, NASA would consider them valuable assets for possible future use in either aircraft or spacecraft research programs. The key points are these:

1. Ground resolution performance of the system is approximately .44 milliradians, or a factor of 4 poorer than the current limiting threshold.

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2. All documentation (contracts, blueprints, logs, calibration data, and specifications) has already been prepared in sanitized form by SSD.
3. Informal discussions with Lt. Col. Hanson, UPWARD Project Officer at SSD, and with the Program "A" Manager's office have suggested that total declassification is wholly feasible.
4. Your office has been recently briefed on the background and status of the equipment and documentation involved.

NASA would appreciate your early consideration of our request for complete declassification of this equipment; pending your determination, we will reserve final disposition instructions for these units.

In addition to the contractual and hardware questions, we must also deal with debriefing NASA employees holding UPWARD clearances and with the public posture NASA will take concerning the LMSS termination.

At present, NASA is responsible for 155 UPWARD cleared individuals; the majority of these will be debriefed over the next several weeks. We plan to send a small team to the Manned Spacecraft Center, where most of the cleared personnel are assigned, and to sign out all those who will no longer require knowledge of the LMSS. If someone from your office, such as Mr. Mazza, would care to accompany the team, we would be very pleased to have his expertise available. We are considering a team composed of Floyd J. Sweet, our ECO; Mr. Myron Krueger, the Project UPWARD Manager; and David Williamson, Jr., Deputy Assistant Administrator for Program Plans and Analysis, or Bartley Fugler, our BSO.

On the question of retaining clearances in the BYEMAN system for certain key officials, I understand that some consideration is being given by your office to the complete elimination of UPWARD as a codeword. NASA has no objection, but we would recommend that those who need BYEMAN access for such general policy matters as the NSAM 156 Committee report or the Survey Applications Coordinating Committee activities be cleared either in another codeword area such as GAMBIT, which is directly relevant to UPWARD, or else as BYECOM.

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As to the public information aspect of the termination, we propose to issue the attached posture paper and internal guidance memorandum (Enclosure 2). This has been informally coordinated with Colonel Carter and already reflects the changes he has suggested. This paper would be used for two purposes: first, a copy would be personally given to each holder of an UPWARD clearance at the time of debriefing; second, it would be transmitted to all senior officials as a directive limiting unauthorized discussion of the project. It is not a press release but would be the basis for responses to query only. The only direct press statement on this matter that we foresee would be as one entry among the many program changes necessitated by the FY 1968 and 1969 budget situation. Our Headquarters Public Affairs Office under Mr. Scheer would refer all questions beyond the scope of the guidelines to the SSD public information office or, if you prefer, to any point you might designate.

On the part of the Administrator as well as myself, I would like to express our sincerest appreciation for the superb cooperation, teamwork, and management efforts that your organization quickly brought to bear in response to our Apollo requirements; it is with regret that we feel we must terminate a project that was moving forward so smoothly. In particular, I would like to express our thanks to Lt. Col. Hanson and his staff for their dedication and leadership, both during the development and recently, in the termination phase of the LMSS project. I am sure we can continue to count upon the assistance of your organization as we move toward an early, efficient completion of the tasks at hand.

Sincerely,

R. C.

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Deputy Administrator

Enclosures - 2

cc: Dr. Foster

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UPWARD.

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

1 December 1967

Dear Bob:

This is in response to your memorandum of October 12, 1967 (BYE-55045-67) concerning the LM&SS Program Termination.

The Director, Central Intelligence has recently approved the findings and recommendations of a special study group which addressed Recommendation #7 of the NSAM 156 Ad Hoc Committee's report of 11 July 1966, "Political and Security Aspects of Non-Military Applications of Satellite Earth Sensing." Under the policy established by this DCI action the ITEK (-9) mapping camera can be decontrolled and used by the NASA as an unclassified item, provided it is used in accordance with basic NSAM 156 limitations and provided that the covert development and prior intelligence applications of the camera are positively protected from disclosure. The ITEK (-9) camera and descriptive documentation can be declassified, but the flight history of this equipment and the flight qualification data cannot be revealed except under BYEMAN security control under a code word different from UPWARD. I realize that the value of the camera hardware to NASA is enhanced by knowledge of the flight qualification record, and I am prepared to supply these data to two or three NASA officials whose positions of authority will permit them to use the data advantageously, and who will be able to positively prevent queries by NASA personnel to ITEK for development or flight qualification information. Mr. Mazza, the NRO Staff Assistant for Security, working under the supervision of General Berg, has been instructed to prepare terms of reference for the decontrol and declassification of the camera equipment and for the actions necessary to prevent unauthorized disclosure of the camera's history.

I have been advised that Mr. Mazza has already begun negotiations with Messrs. Williamson, Krueger, and Sweet of NASA, on the security aspects of the LM&SS termination, and will develop security instructions to be given all NASA personnel to be debriefed from this activity.

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I propose that the classified hardware and documentation from this program will be maintained and stored by the Director, SAFSP. The BYEMAN/UPWARD documents at NASA headquarters required for historical documentation would be retained, but all BYEMAN documentation at NASA centers would be turned back to SAFSP. The UPWARD code word would continue to be used for control of this material; however, the number of personnel cleared would be greatly reduced. The composition of document files to be retained by NASA headquarters, and SAFSP, can be negotiated between NRO Staff, NASA, and SAFSP.

It may be advisable to eliminate or change the UPWARD code word at some future date; however, this will require further study and need not interfere with the orderly termination of the current LM&SS program. For the immediate future, I intend to retain the UPWARD compartmentation for control of the LM&SS program documentation.

I concur with the proposed posture paper and internal guidance memorandum which you attached as Enclosure 2 to your letter. I also concur in your proposal on the public informational aspects of the LM&SS termination.

Sincerely,

Alexander H. Flax

Dr. Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Deputy Administrator
National Aeronautics
and Space Administration
Washington, D.C.

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