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WASHINGTON, D.C.

GAMBIT
UPWARD



THE NRO STAFF

15 February 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: NASA Use of the UPWARD Cameras in Earth Orbit

PURPOSE:

To respond to Admiral Taylor's letter of February 13, 1967 on the above subject. (Tab A)

DISCUSSION:

Admiral Taylor has reviewed the recent letters from Dr. Hornig to you and to Dr. Seamans. (Tab B)

He has stressed the importance of:

1. Guiding any public discussion by NASA of the use of the GAMBIT camera in Earth orbit and
2. Protecting any photography of the Earth in the TALENT-KEYHOLE system.

RECOMMENDATION:

That you sign the proposed response at Tab C.

William R. Yost
WILLIAM R. YOST
Lt Colonel, USAF

*Judman
15 Feb 67*

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UPWARD

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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 15, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: NASA Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras

Attached are copies of an exchange of memoranda between Don Hornig and myself on the subject of the NASA Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras which are to be flown in Earth orbit as part of the Apollo Applications Program. The essential item of concern to the NRO in this equipment is the main camera which is a modified GAMBIT camera installed in a modified GAMBIT-CUBED spacecraft.

Originally, as I understand it, we agreed to release this item to NASA in order to provide a backup for surveying sites for the manned lunar landing in the event that the Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor unmanned programs did not provide adequate information. A secondary objective was to provide scientific lunar mapping information. The DOD/CIA-NASA security agreement provided that photographs taken during checkout in Earth orbit (if such were necessary) would be classified in the TALENT/KEYHOLE System.

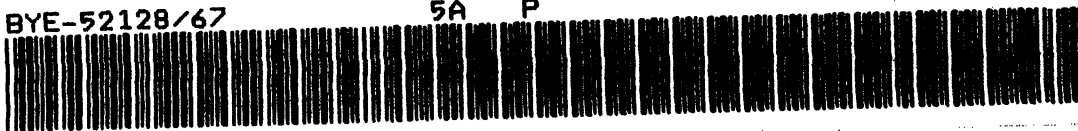
At present, it appears that use of this system is no longer considered essential in establishing the manned lunar landing site; therefore, the objective is entirely scientific mapping of the Moon. Moreover, the Earth orbital checkout has changed from a straight-forward short-term test program to an involvement with a long-duration set of Apollo Applications missions. This has and will continue to pose many problems not originally contemplated, some of which are the subject of Don Hornig's concern.

From a program management standpoint, there are additional problems relating to the extended period over which NASA now intends to use the GAMBIT System. First, since we will be closing

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GAMBIT

out the program at the end of June 1967, it will be necessary to maintain an Eastman Kodak capability to support the GAMBIT on behalf of NASA for a long and at present indeterminate period. This will undoubtedly raise the costs to NASA over those originally estimated. Second, the GAMBIT hardware is designed for a straight-line flow from factory to launch pad; the NASA schedule involves storage of manufactured equipments for long periods. New and perhaps more costly procedures will have to be developed for re-qualification and checkout of equipment after long periods on the shelf. We have called these and other problems to NASA's attention, but they still desire to retain the Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras as a continuing element of the Apollo Program.

My attached reply to Don Hornig refers to a DOD/NASA working group which is addressing itself to security and public information problems associated with this system and notes my intention to inform the Executive Committee of the findings and recommendations of this group.

Alexander H. Flax

Alexander H. Flax

Attachment
Ltr to Dr. Hornig
W/Ltr fm Dr. Hornig

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