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

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

February 15, 1967

Dear Don:

This is in reply to your letter of February 9, 1967 on the subject of NASA's plan for flying the Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras in Earth Orbit in 1968 as part of the Apollo Applications Program.

On the afternoon of February 9th, this subject was on the agenda of the Manned Space Flight Policy Board for discussion between NASA and the DOD. Bob Seamans and the other NASA representatives had read your letter on the same subject addressed to them. We agreed that the questions you raised should be addressed in detail as soon as possible.

The public statements made by NASA with regard to this program thus far have been in accordance with the security ground rules established in the supplement to the DOD/CIA-NASA agreement on NASA reconnaissance programs, dated August 28, 1963. However, it is clear that the present program plans are considerably different from those contemplated at the time this agreement was drawn up, so that while the general security criteria remain applicable we need to give greater attention to the detailed implementation as you have pointed out. In particular, the program originally contemplated envisioned a brief period of Earth orbit checkout of equipment intended for use around the Moon; the present program involves the tie-in of the Lunar Mapping and Survey Equipment checkout with other Apollo applications payloads and entails a protracted period of continuing Earth orbit operations, all conducted in the whitest of white lights of publicity.

The task of examining in detail all aspects of the public release problem, including cover stories, if any, was assigned by the Manned Space Flight Policy Board to a NASA/DOD working

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group which will report its recommendations as expeditiously as possible. Following this, I will report to you and other members of the ExCom on our proposed approach to controlling photography and information relating to the Lunar Survey and Mapping Cameras. You will then be able to judge whether the proposed procedures require further consideration at the policy level.

I will inform you as soon as we have an estimated completion date from the working group.

ae

Alexander H. Flax

Dr. Donald F. Hornig
Special Assistant to the President
for Science and Technology
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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