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OSA-0894-62

15 August 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR: Acting Assistant Director, OSA

SUBJECT : Headquarters Staffing for OXCART Program

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1. Reflecting somewhat upon [REDACTED] voice in the wilderness concerning the need for additional personnel in the Headquarters' OXCART Operational Branch, when the laughing is over with, it appears that this matter might be far more serious than we have let ourselves believe.

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2. The briefing today if nothing else was illustrative in demonstrating, with everyone's agreement, that the OXCART program is a far more complicated and more intricate program than the deuce ever hoped to be. A ready comparison, however, of the early days of the U-2 program and the OXCART program, as we now know it, would lead one to believe operationally, at least, that the U-2 was more demanding, more involved, and required greater support than OXCART. Without getting too far in comparing T/O's, we find the U-2 program supported by such notables as Bissell, [REDACTED] yourself, [REDACTED] not to mention the various ops support types and illustrators that enter into the operation of the U-2. Nowadays in OXCART we find yourself and Songer divided among three time-consuming, operational programs as well as burdened by the administrative and managerial duties of running a division. In the purer operational sense, we find only [REDACTED] carrying the banner for this program, which we all know enjoys the highest priority within the United States Government. When one looks at the multifarious task which [REDACTED] must honcho, one cannot sit back and be reassured that this program is receiving all the attention and support it needs. From the side of the field where I sit, I cannot sight any task which appears insurmountable or, for that matter, the least bit difficult; but I readily recognize, and I think you must agree, each task requires a tremendous amount of coordination and babysitting--far more than the [REDACTED] bodies of [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] can provide.

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3. I appreciate the unfortunate fact that politically the scene is not right for tapping the DD/R or, for that matter, the DCI for more positions. We are probably further handicapped by Colonel [REDACTED] recent conversation with Dr. Scoville wherein he complained that the gentlemen of [REDACTED] were spending most of the time looking for something to do. The delinquency, or rather to be more kind, the tardiness of [REDACTED] replies to the task which Headquarters has levied on the [REDACTED] would prompt one to feel that the [REDACTED] has a lot to do but apparently hasn't focused on the task.

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4. The complexity of air refuel-tanker coordination and mission plans can readily justify the requirement for more bodies. Whether this is done by acquiring additional personnel for Headquarters, adjusting the work load between Headquarters and the [REDACTED] or simply transferring those responsibilities that are now Headquarters' to the field I cannot say; however, I do suggest that you contemplate for a moment whether or not you are content to live with the present situation and that the decision to strike for additional personnel not be predicated on the palatability of such emotion but rather the requirement. I somehow have the uneasy feeling that we may shortly realize we are further downstream than we think.

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[REDACTED]
Executive Officer, OSA

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