

14 December 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Strategic Research

SUBJECT : Discussions of Space Estimates with  
NASA Official.

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1. [REDACTED] and I were visited by Bob Porter of NASA (Office of Policy) to discuss a contract proposal made by McDonald Douglas to study Soviet space programs and their implications. Mr. Porter works directly for General Jacob Smart.

2. Actually the discussion included a general run down of Mr. Webb's and General Smart's concern that NASA wasn't receiving the kind of support from the intelligence community that it needed for its own planning activities. This is not a new story and in the past we have tended to discount this feeling as one flowing from Mr. Webb's disagreement with Agency estimates. As we discussed it today, however, there seems to be at least a kernel of validity to their problem.

3. What Porter was saying today was that NASA needs the kind of explicit indication of alternative Soviet space programs and technical cost implications similar to the format of the NIPP. Mr. Webb is meeting with the planning staff early next week to discuss intelligence needs and how best to obtain intelligence support for NASA planning. Sometime subsequent to that meeting, probably in early January, Mr. Webb plans to discuss this with Mr. Helms. I expect that the discussion will include a suggestion that something like a space NIPP be prepared, although it may be a request that this be done in house in CIA as first run-through.

4. I believe there is value in this approach. We are going to have to take a basically similar tack in

our own research program simply to <sup>estimate</sup> ~~eliminate~~ the range of program options and their cost implications for the Soviet space program in the years ahead. It would be of marked assistance to us for DDS&T to participate in this exercise, and to do so in response to a request from the administrator of NASA would help to insure maximum FMSAC involvement. Moreover, this could assist in establishing the OSR role in intelligence production on space matters and in establishing a NASA-DDI channel. Up to now NASA has felt they are too tied to the DDS&T channels into CIA. For this reason, I suggest that we try to see that any tasks set by the Webb-Helms meeting be directed to the DDI as executive agent.

25X1A5a1 5. As an aside, I also learned today that NASA has discussed another contract proposal - relating to the economic implications of Soviet space programs - with Bill Morell and that OER will be jointly monitoring this contract with NASA. The contractor in this case is [REDACTED] 25X1A5a1

? | [REDACTED] Bob Porter invited us to think about participating in monitoring this contract and to think about participation in monitoring the proposed McDonald Douglas contract. I think we should probably talk about this at your convenience.

6. This is for your information at this time. Mr. Porter will keep us informed and has promised to let me know something about Mr. Webb's intention prior to his visit to Mr. Helms.

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Chief  
Strategic Forces Division, OSR