

ExCom-M-4

NRP EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Minutes of Meeting Held 26 April 1966  
Office of Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Room 3E 928, The Pentagon

Members Present

Mr. Cyrus R. Vance	Deputy Secretary of Defense
Admiral William F. Raborn	Director of Central Intelligence
Dr. Donald F. Hornig	Special Assistant to the President for Science and Technology
Dr. Alexander H. Flax	Director, National Reconnaissance Office, Ex Officio
Mr. James Q. Reber	Secretary, NRP Executive Committee Ex Officio

Others Present

Dr. John S. Foster, Jr.	DDR&E
Mr. Huntington D. Sheldon	CIA
Mr. John A. Bross	CIA
Mr. John J. Crowley	CIA
Dr. Donald Steininger	PSAC Staff
Brig. Gen. James T. Stewart	Director, NRO Staff

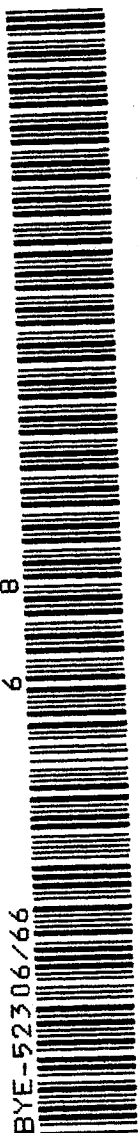
New Search and Surveillance Satellite System

Ref: BYE-52224-66 of 22 April 1966

1. Mr. Vance proposed at the outset that, after such discussion and briefing as was necessary, Admiral Raborn, Dr. Hornig, and he meet in Executive Session to make the decisions required. Admiral Raborn and Dr. Hornig agreed.

2. In introducing this item, Dr. Flax alluded to the reference paper which had been distributed. He said that he had nothing to add to it unless there were questions.

BYE-52306-66  
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3. Admiral Raborn made available a memorandum which indicated that he had only one major recommendation to make on the proposed management plan for the new system, namely, that the subsystem definition be modified to assign to CIA the responsibility for the structure which enclosed the sensor subsystem, as well as the responsibility for development, production, and integration of the stellar index camera. His note included specific language to accomplish the foregoing. He called upon Mr. Crowley to present the reasoning for the proposal. The essence of Mr. Crowley's briefing was that such an assignment of responsibility was critical in the following areas: optical, film path, structural dynamics, and thermal--the latter two being highly critical. He explained that the proposed modification of the subsystem definition would reduce the amount of interagency interface and thereby markedly improve the possibilities of satisfactory performance within the time limits of the program.

4. Prior to the adjournment of this question for consideration in Executive Session, Mr. Sheldon suggested that there be further discussion on possible difficulties which the CIA Security Office felt pertained to the procedure for handling security in the HEXAGON program. The specific point alluded to concerned the procedure whereby both the SAFSP and CIA Project Offices were authorized to grant HEXAGON clearances and each was bound to honor without question such need-to-know determination on the part of the other. Dr. Flax commented that his objective in this proposal was to eliminate the use of security as a means of frustrating the legitimate access to information, an objective with which the ExCom agreed. Mr. Sheldon and Dr. Flax will pursue this problem further.

5. Subsequent to the meeting of the three principals in Executive Session, the Deputy Secretary of Defense advised the DNRO that the Executive Committee had approved his HEXAGON program proposal as submitted.

CORONA Management

Ref: BYE-52268-66 of 22 April 1966

6. This item was approved with the understanding that the assignment of the DISIC procurement responsibility to the SAFSP would carry with it the instruction that there should be no change in the specifications without the concurrence of the CIA Payload Subassembly Project Office.

Report on [REDACTED] Status

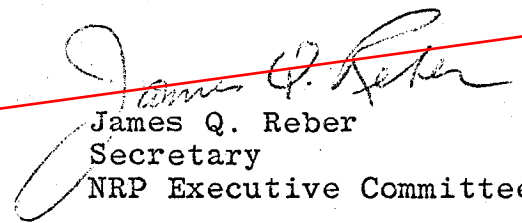
Ref: BYE-52298-66 of April 1966

7. Dr. Flax pointed out that he had finished his deliberations on the [REDACTED] project. He distributed a draft memorandum to the ExCom for study and action as soon as the participants were prepared. He explained that his proposal would limit (at least, initially) the project to a primary objective (namely, [REDACTED] and other [REDACTED] and thus would increase the probability of success, decrease probability of schedule slippage, and reduce program cost. He also explained that, although he was provisionally including the [REDACTED] ground station in the project, he recommended an early joint [REDACTED] study on the [REDACTED] the possible [REDACTED] and the location and configuration of the ground station.

8. Pending ExCom consideration of the draft proposal, it agreed that a revised project plan should be prepared and costed out in line with Dr. Flax's recommendation. The ExCom also agreed that [REDACTED] should undertake a joint study of [REDACTED] and the ground station which should be completed within six to eight weeks (but not to exceed the latter).

Personnel

9. Admiral Raborn said that he felt it was very important to the success of the NRP that CIA people be assigned to SAFSP, and also emphasized the need to move ahead in providing additional CIA people for the NRO Staff. Mr. Vance concurred in his views and likewise emphasized the importance of such actions.

  
James Q. Reber  
Secretary  
NRP Executive Committee