

(The document referred to is as follows:)

Certified True Copy.
14 April 1960

AFPDC (Gen Landon)
AFDDC (Gen Wilson)

1. I am convinced that one of the major long range elements of the Air Force future lies in space. It is also obvious that NASA will play a large part in the national effort in this direction and, moreover, inevitably will be closely associated, if not eventually combined with the military. It is perfectly clear to me that particularly in these formative years the Air Force must, for its own good as well as for national interest, cooperate to the maximum extent with NASA, to include the furnishing of key personnel even at the expense of some Air Force dilution of technical talent.

2. It has come to my attention that key personnel in NASA feel that there has been a shift in Air Force policy in respect to the type of cooperation stated above. I want to make it crystal clear that the policy has not changed and that to the very limit of our ability, and even beyond it to the extent of some risk to our own programs, the Air Force will cooperate and will supply all reasonable key personnel requests made on it by NASA.

3. To meet the above requirement I have no doubt that some shifting of Air Force personnel within the Air Force will be necessary in order to feed new talent into ARDC. This should be done. In addition, while late, we must increase the number of slots in civil technical institutions for Air Force officers. I want this type of technical education to be given the highest priority in our civil educational program and the percentage of slots in this respect to be radically increased, effective as early as possible.

THOMAS D. WHITE

Chief of Staff

cc: Under Secretary of the Air Force

Dr. Perkins

General LeMay

General Schriever

Classification cancelled by
authority of COFS, USAF,
by: R. N. Ginsburgh
date: 14 Mar 1961

The CHAIRMAN. Now, you wish to explain the order?

General WHITE. Yes, sir.

I would first like to call attention to the date: 14 April 1960. I would ask the committee to recall the environment at that time in which there were many proposals for reorganization of the entire space environment, even one to create an organization paralleling the Atomic Energy Commission, for example.

This memorandum, I am quite frank to say, was a sermon from the Chief of Staff to his staff. At about that time I think it was Mr. Horner, who had been in NASA, reported to me that there was a feeling on the part of some people in NASA that the numbers of Air Force officers assigned for duty were inadequate, and that they had had some difficulty, on a lower level, getting the right people in the right slots over there.

The sole purpose of this memorandum—and I think I stated it very clearly—is that I want to make it crystal clear that the policy is we will cooperate with NASA—and to the very limit of our ability and even beyond, to the extent of some risk to our own programs. The Air Force will cooperate and will support all reasonable key personnel requests made on it by NASA.

I want to make it clear that it was my policy that the best people in the Air Force would go to NASA if they wanted them, and I am happy to say at the last count there are 77 Air Force officers in NASA and if they need more we will support them. There are a number