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NRO

27 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT : Comments on E. P. Kiefer's Communication

1. The attached letter of resignation should surprise none of us, and we must eventually relieve him. However, he should be kept in place until the NRO ground rules change, if only to keep our franchise alive. From conversation with Kiefer on 23 July 1964, I learned that McMillan expects Kiefer not to be replaced, in conformance with the PFIAB recommendations. It would be difficult for a new man to slide into this situation and have any greater effect than Kiefer at this point. My recommendation is to ask Kiefer to hold fast until November, and I believe he will be a good soldier.

2. His attached memorandum on the history of NRO is an honest attempt to set down his perspective on the whole issue and probably represents a very daring proclamation from his position. To me there is little that is new, and I only regret that he held his fire for so long in discussions with the Director and PFIAB. On the other hand, he has probably felt that he could not divest himself of his misgivings until he had moved to sever his allegiance to McMillan as DNRO.

3. I discussed his future with Kiefer and got the impression that he would like to stay with the Agency, although he is exploring other jobs. I would like to have him in any one of several roles in DD/S&T, all of which we have discussed at some length.



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ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director
for
Science and Technology

Attachments:

Memo from DDNRO dated 20 July 1964
BYE-2990-64

BYE-0165-64
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OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR

Dr. Wheelon.

Comments

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20 July 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT : Relief from Assignment

I have submitted a summary of one-year tenure as DDNRO to the DCI and DNRO. The situation described therein has made it unlikely that I would be drawn into the workings of the NRO to anywhere near the extent that is appropriate to the post of Deputy. I must confess to having made but perfunctory contributions to the substance of the program and, at best, have helped only to perpetuate a stalemate in organization relationships. Therefore, I respectfully ask for relief from assignment in my present capacity as early as may be mutually acceptable.

[Redacted Signature Box]

EUGENE P. KIEFER
Deputy Director
National Reconnaissance Office

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