

Electronic Spying Expert Hired by NASA as Adviser

By JEAN HELLER

WASHINGTON (AP) — A former top Pentagon intelligence official was hired by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration as an advisor just days before the Defense Department abandoned a major space spying program, leaving the space station project solely to NASA.

Although the civilian space agency denies that the hiring of Dr. Eugene G. Fubini marks the beginning of a new effort in spying from space by NASA, Fubini has a background in electronic intelligence gathering.

Fubini was sworn in June 5 as a consultant to the administrator of the space agency with responsibility to review and advise on "scientific and engineering aspects of the agency's programs."

IN 1963, President Kennedy appointed him assistant secretary of defense and deputy director of defense research and engineering, positions he held for two years.

Early last year, The Associated Press reported that during his tenure at the Pentagon, Fubini had been head of the super-secret National Security Agency, an arm of the Defense Department with responsibility for electronic spying, code-breaking and cryptanalysis.

One reliable source, in discussing the 1964 Gulf of Tonkin incident, said Fubini "probably knows more about what was going on in our electronic surveillance of North Vietnam than any other man in Washington."

ON JUNE 10, five days after Fubini went to work full-time for NASA—leaving his post as vice president of IBM to do so—the Pentagon announced the \$3 billion Air Force Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) program was being scrubbed to save money. Basic research on the program overlapped research being done by NASA.

The MOL program would have carried the Air Force

space station over territorial Russia and Red China. The Air Force refused to talk about the possible spy function of the space station but NASA sources said, "The military project would have conducted some kind of surveillance," probably photographic.

The NASA-developed space station would carry a two-man crew but would be put in an equatorial orbit, one which would not carry it over either Russia or Red China.

HOWEVER, some aerospace industry sources say advances in electronic surveillance have been so great in recent years that flyovers aren't necessary to "see" what's going on in any particular area of the world.

It is this new series of highly sophisticated satellite devices that may have made MOL obsolete before it ever got off the ground, sources said, leading to its relegation to the research scrap heap.

Like McNamara last year, NASA this week denied that Fubini's responsibility would be in the intelligence field.

"We didn't hire him for that," a spokesman said.

Fubini's office said he was not available for comment.