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Subject: Project RAND Recommendation to the Air Staff

TO: WDTL
WDT (In Turn)

FROM: WDR

OCT 10 1956 COMMENT NO. 2
Capt. Coolbaugh/dh/1344

1. The inclosed RAND Recommendation has been reviewed by WDR, and WDR has discussed it with WDTL.

2. As far as WS 117L is concerned, the subject of infrared is not new since the application of infrared techniques to WS 117L is being given serious consideration by both WDR and Lockheed Missile Systems Division. In fact, Lockheed Missile Systems Division has issued a report, "Preliminary Study of WS 117L Warning System Against ICBM Attack", MSD 1929, dated 6 September 1956, which deals entirely with using infrared detection techniques. This volume should be examined by the people who are concerned with acting on RAND's Recommendation, because the information contained in it is closely related and in some cases is applicable to the RAND defensive system. One copy of the report is inclosed for such use.

3. The attached report, MSD 1929, does not present a firm program which is being incorporated as a part of WS 117L. Rather, the report should be read with Lockheed's introductory qualification in mind, "This system is admittedly not the optimum one, and it is offered here solely for the purposes of discussion".

4. The discussion with Colonel Ely (WDTL) brought out the fact that there are no provisions in the existing programs at WDD to conduct experiments such as RAND suggests. He did state that, possibly, such experiments could be incorporated in the various test programs, and they might even serve a useful function, e.g., tracking of missiles by infrared equipment. The results of these experiments could also be used by WS 117L to better define an infrared reconnaissance system capable of warning of an impending ICBM attack by enemies of this country.

5. No discussions have been held with WDO on this matter.

SIGNED

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3 Incls:

- 1. RAND Reccom. to the Air Staff
WD 56-02919 (SECRET)
- 2. Lockheed MSD 1929, Preliminary Study of WS 117L Warning System Against ICBM Attack (DSIT-56-1539 (SECRET))
- 3. Memo fr Gen. Stranathan above subject, dtd 12 Sep 56

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WDR dh
Capt. Coolbaugh 1344

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WD 56-02919