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NOTES

PROJECT RAND'S SATELLITE
(Code Name: Feed Back)
Wick

I. Project RAND started work on the satellite vehicle almost at the very beginning when the project was set up in the spring of 1946. The Navy had done some work through a contract with Glenn L. Martin about the same time. The motivation back of each of these efforts was the captured technical German data which the AF and USN Technical Commissions unearthed in the fall of 1945. Later the air was cleared and the Air Force took over the sole responsibility for doing research on a satellite vehicle.

II. The RDB's roll is clear. Early in 1948, the RDB Technical Evaluation Group of the Guided Missiles Committee reviewed the RAND satellite program and issued a directive GM 13/7 entitled, "Satellite Vehicle Program." On the basis of this review, but prior to the issuance of this document, the Air Force sent RAND the inclosed copy of a letter dated 17 February 1948.

Later, the minutes of the RDB committee indicated broad concurrence of the AF directive and further stated that RAND should have sole responsibility in this field. Dr. J. E. Lipp briefed the RDB Technical Evaluation Group of the GM Committee on the satellite on 23 March 1948.

(Consult RDB Minutes at this point.)

III. Dr. L. Lombard, Chief Scientist, Office of Scientific Advisor, M.A.G. The/SAB reviewed the satellite work at RAND in September 1950. Major/Robinson, Strategic Air Group, Directorate of R&D, working in the Guided Missiles shop under Colonel Romig, asked Jim Lipp how much money would be needed to pick up

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Paragraph III Continued.

the work at this point. RAND had completed its first phase of a long study prior to this time. Jim Lipp suggested \$400,000 would be required in FY-52.

IV. On 6 November 1950, RAND submitted recommendations to Hq USAF (Maj Gen. Putt) suggesting extension of research necessary for reconnaissance use of the vehicle. The work is outlined in summary form in the letter to Major Riepe attached to item number V below. Also, attached comments better explain the details of the recommendation.

Then, in April of 1951, RAND issued two comprehensive reports R 217 "Utility of a Satellite Vehicle for Reconnaissance" and R-218 "Inquiry into the Feasibility of Weather Reconnaissance from a Satellite Vehicle." (The two reports are attached on a loan basis.) By the time FY-52 began RAND had laid its plans pretty carefully to subcontract the next phase of the basic research. General Putt sent letters to The AEC and RCA which started the ball rolling in the spring of 1951. The attached copy of General Putt's letter to The AEC will indicate satellite's status as of a year ago in the minds of Hq USAF. The RCA letter was similar. Unfortunately we do not have a copy readily available.

V. Up to FY-52 all of the work done on the satellite by RAND came out of its annual budget. Then for FY-53, a line item was established for \$400,000 and was implemented as a supplement to RAND's basic contract specifically stating that the money was to be used for subcontracting work. The AEC decided to support the auxiliary power plant studies from its own funds with the understanding that they would carry the research up to a point of feasibility and RAND would take support of the work financially (within AEC)

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Paragraph V. continued.

applying it to the environment of the satellite (zero gravity, etc.). The attached copy of a letter to Riepe (Chairman, Satellite Committee, WADC) summarizes the work underway as well as that work planned during FY-52 and FY-53. We discussed the fact that the FY-53 line item of \$400,000 for FY-53 appeared in the budget until February this year. In March it no longer was there and you pointed out that it still was missing. At this point, it is believed necessary to find out from Hq, ARDC why that line item disappeared. When the answer to that is obtained, then some decision can be made as to how much should be entered in the FY-54 budget exercise. Jim Lipp now feels that a nominal sum of \$100,000 for FY-54 should appear pending the outcome of the presently planned FY-52 work as well as the work that should go on into FY-53.

VI. Lt Colonel W. W. McIntosh reporting to Colonel Robins (Executive Office), Deputy for Development ARDC has been designated as a RAND liaison officer by Colonel Fickel, Assistant Deputy for Development, ARDC. Presumably he would be the man in ARDC to talk to or at least wire-in before going to Colonel Romig's shop, Hq USAF Guided Missiles (Directorate of Research, DCS/D).

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(This info taken from Condé Treadwell's file
of old material received from WADC.
File: NCT-2-3-Historical Documents)

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IM-351
5-28-52

J. E. Lipp

C. G. Habley

Feed Back History

WADC Coordination Required for Budget Purposes

G. H. Putt

The attached very informal outline was given to Colonel Knox confirming the rather loosely put together discussion yesterday. It was based entirely on the material found in our files. You will recall that I talked to you from his office yesterday to clarify a few points and asked you for a copy of Crawford's letter to Douglas. Rather than wait (even though I had asked for a copy) the girls combed thru our files and were able to find a copy of that letter.

It was important to get Knox clearly up-to-date since it will be he who will have to take over the development when, and if, it becomes necessary. I hope that all of the comments made by me are essentially accurate. If they are not, any errors can be easily corrected verbally. Let me know if you spot some you think are important to change.

Riepe is writing a letter based on this logged information to the CG, ARDC asking for a clarification of why the FY-53 budget item disappeared; if it was inadvertant, would they please correct it; and/or if there is some real reason for not budgeting in FY-53 to please send confirmation because the FY-54 budget exercise is now in progress here at WADC.

Colonel Knox will call starting with our liaison guy (Lt/Col MacIntosh) at ARDC and will attempt to ferret out the proper person at ARDC as well as the one in Romig's old shop. Between Riepe and Knox, we should get this thing unhooked within a week or two. I am not sure what Larry is doing at his end but will discuss it with him today and explain what I have done here. My past experience has proven the need to work from each end against the middle in order to get a satisfactory answer. As soon as the air becomes clear, you most certainly will be made aware of any decisions. This budget business is a strange and wondrous thing to behold.

C. G. Habley

ATT: Cy of Notes and
Letters on Feed Back
which were given to
Col. Knox

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS:
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

(Received RAND Mail Room 29 May 1952)

NOTE: Mr Habley was Dayton
Representative of RAND.
Lipp, Missiles Division
RAND, Santa Monica.