

CANCELLATION OF PROJECT VEDAS

1. In an effort to secure funds for the VEDAS program, the Army Corps of Engineers presented the VEDAS proposal to ARPA for review. ARPA authorized [redacted] for a G.E. study of the proposal. G.E. has completed the study and the results were presented to ARPA and Dr. York.

2. After careful consideration of the study and the role that the VEDAS results would play in the National Defense effort as well as political consequences of such an endeavor, all further work on VEDAS was cancelled. Future development of the VEDAS satellite, however, was not completely ruled out. The VEDAS proposal will be reviewed periodically as requirements for the VEDAS product become more critical and the political climate becomes more favorably disposed toward use of satellites as reconnaissance type vehicles.

3. The need for the type data produced by the VEDAS program would become more critical as the character of the National Defense Forces of the U.S. phase into complete dependence upon ICBM's. At this point in the transition, when the U.S. has a mixed offensive and defensive force, the VEDAS program is not as critical and funds are being diverted to general R and D efforts to push the state of the art of orbiting satellites. Advances in the state of the art of orbiting will, of course, be of great advantage to a future VEDAS program.

4. The above determination coupled with the weighty political overtones of overflight of the USSR by satellites for reconnaissance purposes was responsible for the cancellation of the VEDAS.

5. Other minor objections to the VEDAS program were the placement of an operational type VEDAS program in the R and D non-operational series and inclusion of the VEDAS program in an already crowded DISCOVERER series.