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27 February 1959

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 27 February 1959 - OTHER PROJECTS

Personnel Present: Mr Bissell [redacted] [redacted]
Mr Barnes Mr Kelly [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] Mr Reber
Mr Anderson Mr Kiefer [redacted]
[redacted] [redacted] Mr Kucera
[redacted] [redacted]

CORONA

1. AIR & SEA RECOVERY PROGRAM - [redacted] has been in consultation with [redacted] and [redacted] relative Infrared capability of the U-2. He will attend a meeting 26 February at Andrews on ARDC's IR Project in connection with the U-2.

2. TRIP REPORT WEST COAST - ITEK reported problems with the camera in not meeting shake tests at low frequencies. High frequencies not a problem. As a result delivery of the first qualified camera will be delayed. Three unqualified cameras will be shipped to IMSD.

As yet there is no weight problem - also can still shed some weight if necessary.

GE retro rocket is 10% low in power but can be developed to required performance if money is made available. However GE deficit in black and white GE CORONA contracts now shows at [redacted] which will be shared by CIA and USAF, with CIA picking up [redacted] and AF the rest. The deficit was created by wrong estimates in the nose cone, balance, parachute and drop tests. All sub-programs are up in costs. On 2 March there will be a GE meeting wherein the business side of GE will have a chance to tell its story. Mr. Bissell directed that we be represented. He remarked that a bad performance in cost control would weigh heavily in follow-on program.

Mr. Kucera also reported that the Thermal tests were postponed to late March or early April, that Shake tests were more important.

He also indicated that Col. Sheppard has only one aircraft available for IR work and he wants two, thereby cutting down on impact area in recovery phase.

A new strict quality control program has begun with GE and ITEK. As part of it 100% spares will be required, since now the lack of sufficient spares creates a problem.

ACTION: Mr. Kucera

Visitors to the Project Hqs will be Mr. Root, Chief of LAC MSD, who will be here 26 February and Mr. Hawkins who is pinch hitting for [redacted] replacement at LMSD) will be here 6 March.

Question was raised as to what effect weather control will have on the readiness and hold problem and on target weather. [redacted] will check this out with LAC and BMD.

ACTION: [redacted]

The 1960 Program is being planned but at this time extent of our participation in a procurement sense or as cover has not been decided. According to Dick Horner decision has been made in the Pentagon that financing will be thru ARPA but funding is not absolutely final. Mr. Bissell requested that inquiry be delicately made of AF whether decision has been made on above, who has been informed and what form.

ACTION: Mr. Kucera [redacted]

There is a dress rehearsal now taking place off Hawaii both by sea and water with drops from a B-47 and attempted recovery. The Project has observers with both groups, [redacted] and [redacted] with the air team and [redacted] with the Navy.

The second Discoverer shot will take place 25 February. In answer to Mr. Bissell's question, Mr. Anderson said TV coverage will be avoided in future shots.

[redacted]

APPROVED:

[redacted]
[redacted], USAF
Acting Chief, DPD-DDA

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