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ARG-0003

30 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Control of the ARGON Program - Agency Responsibilities

1. In accordance with the conversations among representatives of ARPA, CIA and the Department of the Army, this memorandum sets forth the relationships between these agencies in the direction and control of ARGON, and these agencies relationships to program contractors.

2. In order to obtain maximum security it is essential that CIA exercise control of ARGON: this control to range from complete control in such areas as security and cover to joint control with ARPA in other areas such as the direction of the technical aspects of the project.

3. Since the Army is the major, if not the primary, customer for whose benefit ARGON will be conducted, arrangements have been initiated to establish under ARPA cover, an Army Map Service Technical Staff which will support ARPA program management. This staff will contribute its initiative and competence through the ARPA Project Manager, and _____, Assistant Project Manager who will work closely with appropriate CIA representatives.

4. To fulfill the Army's requirements performance specifications will be furnished by ARPA to CIA and these agencies will jointly select one or more prime contractors through which the detailed technical direction of the ARGON program will be accomplished.

5. The prime contractor or contractors will be charged under contract by CIA with the responsibility for performance of engineering work as required by the ARGON system as a whole, and for providing appropriate direction to insure the technical adequacy of various components, subsystems, and facilities required in the development of the ARGON system as well as for necessary ground equipment, including that for data processing. The prime contractor or contractors will also be responsible, except as limited below, for resolution of all technical controversies arising during development of the ARGON system, including the problem of payload integration, and for the technical direction of the research, development, and production efforts of all sub-contractors. The prime contractor or contractors will conduct analytical studies, and with the assistance of the sub-contractors will provide the specifications and other data as may be

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required to completely define the ARJW payload system characteristics. These will include: system specifications, criteria and requirements for major subsystems, trajectories and guidance equations, power and interface specifications, maintenance of reliability performance and accuracy estimates, weight, and balance.

6. CIA will closely follow the development of the program and will keep ARPA fully advised of technical progress. Whenever problems of a technical nature arise including disagreements among contractors or interface problems of a technical nature involving possible compromise to the attainment of project objectives, or which may involve interference with the establishment of fully effective physical integration of vehicles and payloads, CIA will consult with ARPA and the two agencies will jointly agree on appropriate solutions. In this manner it is contemplated that ARPA and CIA will exercise joint control over technical matters in the conduct of the program.

7. In other areas, responsibilities during procurement will be as follows:

a. CIA Responsibilities

(1) Security and Cover - All aspects of security control and cover in the conduct of the program are the responsibility of CIA.

(2) Contractual Authority - Contractual authority under negotiated contracts shall vest solely in the authorized CIA contracting officer. This officer will negotiate and execute letter orders and contracts as required, including change orders for delivery of the required supplies and services. The policies and procedures to be followed in connection with such contracts shall be the same policies and procedures in effect on CIA contracts for similar procurements. Requirements set forth by the Armed Services Procurement Regulations shall be complied with to the greatest extent possible consistent with the unique security considerations inherent in procurements undertaken by CIA.

(3) Payment, Inspections, Acceptance and Audit - CIA will accomplish necessary administrative procedures and make payments under the contracts as required in a secure manner. CIA will establish in conjunction with ARPA a system of inspection and acceptance, and will arrange with the contractors and a special Air Force audit group for audit of contracts as may be required. These audit reports shall not enter the Army audit system but shall be furnished directly to CIA.

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b. **AEPA Responsibilities** - In addition to those set forth above, AEPA will:

- (1) **Furnish the funds necessary for the program.**
- (2) **Furnish any Government furnished property required for effective performance of the contract work.**

8. **Operations** - On the operational phase of the program responsibilities will be as follows:

- a. **The CIA-DFD Control Center will be the central location for operational control.**
- b. **The ARCON launches will be handled by the Palo Alto Control Center. Recovery procedures in effect for DISCOVERY will be used for ARCON. Courier service to the processing center will be the same.**
- c. **EMD will be fully responsible for operations at Vandenberg and acceptance of payloads. ARCON payloads would be handled and assembled at a secure facility designated by CIA.**
- d. **Political approvals for ARCON launches will be the responsibility of CIA, and DOD support with AEPA providing technical justification for flights.**

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