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ITEK - FULCRUM Camera Progress

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On Friday, 18 September 1964, Mr. Wolfe and Mr. Madden of ITEK made a presentation to the SPO on their approaches to proving feasibility of the optical bar and quarter wave length camera configuration for Project FULCRUM. The meeting was requested by Mr. Maxey based on his concern relative to the adequacy of the technical manpower to achieve the objectives of the Work Statement.

Maxey's ground rules included such statements that only with maximum assurance could a follow-on program be assured and that meant technical manpower capable of being immediately available for the project. He, therefore, ruled out manning from outside hires and directed ITEK to evaluate programs based only on the availability of skilled ITEK personnel.

ITEK proposed a work statement which encompassed the two configurations. They proposed a manning chart using outside hires. It was marginal and, based on Maxey's ground rules, unacceptable. They agreed to return to Boston and reassess their resources to determine if it would be possible to "rob" other programs in order to pursue both configurations. A meeting to determine their progress toward that objective was scheduled for September 23.

ITEK opened the September 23rd meeting by presenting a list of some thirty technical personnel, experienced in the needed technologies, who could be made available at once. The manning table, not including Vidya, MRI, Ion Physics, Franklin Institute and Tropel has jumped to about 90. The reallocation of these technical personnel was accomplished at the expense of other programs - and of the proposal and preliminary design effort and ITEK indicated that their near future fiscally-speaking was now dedicated to FULCRUM. It was a gratifying expression of confidence in dedication to the camera tasks.

ITEK then layed out a program planning chart and a Task Manning Chart complete with named personnel now on board, available and ready to go. In essence, they proposed a program which would extend to February 1 and demonstrate the feasibility of the two configurations. They also showed a test plan and procedures to provide adequate mensuration of their results.

Mr. Maxey gave them a go-ahead indicating that the program must be carefully definitized with appropriate milestones to permit close monitoring. He also emphasized that the optical bar approval was still preferred and must not, under any circumstances, be slighted.

ITEK will now proceed to further define each task breaking out support elements so manning and technical

progress on each configuration can be made highly visible. Reassessment of costs will follow the new task alignments so contract definitization can be accomplished soon.

The project office will maintain close liaison with the work being done at ITEK, P&E, and STL to insure necessary and desirable interchange and progress toward project objectives. A brief report will be submitted weekly.