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Fulcrum



7 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with General Stewart
re Follow-on Search System

1. On 7 September 1965 Mr. Dirks and the undersigned met with General Stewart in an effort to ascertain the level of effort which the Air Force was maintaining on their FULCRUM competitive systems. General Stewart initially pleaded that he was somewhat in the dark as to what was going on and, as we had expressed, was operating in the same vacuum. We indicated that we were particularly desirous of so structuring our effort at Perkin-Elmer that it gave some meaning in an all-up sense to the camera selection process. We stated that we realized that we could not build exactly duplicate programs, but we did want to posture ourselves in order that our P-E effort would come out about the same time and, hopefully, comparable in data as the Air Force's efforts at E-K and Itek.

2. After considerable discussions on generalities and in response to more direct repetitive questioning, General Stewart allowed that the E-K effort was presently \$1,000,000 a month, while the Itek dollars were somewhat in the neighborhood of \$300,000 per month. General Stewart stated that the normal progressive curve for increased dollars and manpower at E-K had now been held at a constant level with no particular date as to termination or completion. Specifically, he noted that there is hardware being built at both contractors in optics as well as camera, and in fact, in the process of building engineering models.

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3. General Stewart felt that as far as a follow-on search system was concerned, the pacing items were really the booster selection and pad selection. He stated that the proposal under consideration at the moment was to convert the present CORONA pads at PALC I to some variation of a TITAN III system, with the CORONA launchings transferred to three THOR pads at Vandenberg Air Force Base. The GAMBIT program presently operating in PALC II, Pad 4, with Pad 3 undergoing modification to accommodate the TITAN IIIX AGENA for G-3.

4. In response to a "fishing" query, General Stewart stated that "off the record", it was his personal opinion that E-K could not technically accommodate the demands of G-3, MOL, and a follow-on search system; secondly, that E-K was far and away the leading contractor of the MOL program; that selection of the MOL contractor would be reached before the end of September. General Stewart added that this decision, i.e., the one that E-K could not support all programs, had been supported by a work survey assumingly recently conducted at E-K by the Air Force.

5. General Stewart indicated that he felt three things demanded urgent attention:

(1) to get on with the general spacecraft concept, which in turn was predicated upon booster selection and hence earlier determination could be made as to particular requirements;

(2) that in two to three weeks we should arrive at a conclusion as to what we are aiming for in camera contractors;

(3) in dealing with the camera contractors, we get the competition in the contractors and not in the Government.

We agreed that his desires were most necessary and noble. We suggested that we might make use of the work which E-K had accomplished to date as well as Itek for our own enlightenment. This he felt was most desirable and indicated that he could make necessary arrangements. We noted that to wait 2 to 3^{months} before deciding what our position should be vis-a-vis camera contractors was somewhat tardy in that the bills were coming upon us daily and we should come down hard on a program. He indicated that we should have no problem spending money as we saw fit at P-E. He did not disagree that we needed to continue some thermal

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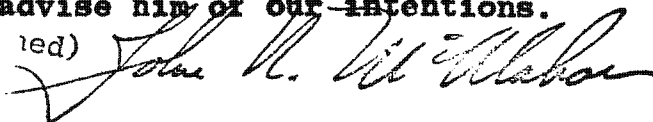
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structure work at G-E. We advised him that we had stopped work at AVCO, but desired to continue with some systems engineering effort at STL. He queried what we would do with systems engineering and Mr. Dirks told him. The subject was then dropped.

6. Upon meeting's end, we had come away with the knowledge of the Air Force program, although this knowledge made our programming much more complex. We also assured General Stewart that when we sort out this business, we would be back to him and advise him of our intentions.

(red)



JOHN N. MCMAHON

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