

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

CONTROL SYSTEM  
REPRODUCTION PROHIBITED

THE NRO STAFF

4 March 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL ROSENBERG

SUBJECT: AFSPPF Closure Review

The undersigned met with Colonel Davison (Commander AFSPPF) and numerous members of his staff on 26-27 February 1975 to review all unresolved areas regarding the closure of SPPF and the movement of its three primary functions. Items of specific interest are highlighted below.

1. Continuance of Mission: The SPPF Production Staff requested guidance regarding color and acceptance/chamber test material processing. Although the 90/10 relationship will continue up to the physical shutdown and move, there exists the possibility to terminate the color back-up capability at any time. Additionally, acceptance and chamber material could be transferred earlier to Bridgehead. This query was resolved by informing them that the NRO desires a color back-up capability at SPPF as long as possible. In addition acceptance/chamber material could also be processed right up to closure. However, the program manager at SP has been contacted for their desires and schedule. SPPF will be notified after SS/SP discussions.

2. Equipment Tests: Equipment which will be transferred with Production (PD), Evaluation (EV) and R&D was finalized. In some cases physical inspections were required to determine their distribution.

There were four additional equipment lists prepared; excess, storage, standards lab and base disposal. Base disposal are those types of items which include chairs, desks, cabinets, etc. which we no longer require.

The remaining three lists are important to the NRO and disposition<sup>as</sup> follows:

EXCESS. A copy of this list is being provided to Bridgehead and to [redacted]. These are items which could be placed in Bridgehead in lieu of buying new items. In the case of [redacted] I have requested [redacted] to have his people go over these lists (telecon 28 Feb 75) in order to accept this equipment instead of buying it for [redacted].

HANDLING INSTRUCTIONS  
CONTROL SYSTEM

CLASSIFIED BY [redacted] EXEMPT FROM  
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 14176 EXEMPTION CATE-  
GORY 5E2 DECLASSIFY ON RHP DET.

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY 1 OF \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES  
PAGE \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

STORAGE. These are items the NRO will put into the NER at Omaha because of their future potential use. These are items such as printers and processors.

STANDARDS LAB. We had discussed breaking up this lab and splitting the equipment among many lists. After detail discussions it was determined the lab should be kept in tact. DIA/DC-6 will accept the lab and provide necessary support to our R&D and Evaluation functions as well as to the NRO as a whole. I will consummate this arrangement and draw up a letter of agreement between DIA and the NRO for this valuable support.

All of the latest equipment is fairly new and in perfect working condition. In order to provide the magnitude of this equipment, following is a list of its value:

EV transfer  
R&D transfer  
PD transfer  
STORAGE (NER)  
EXCESS  
BASE DISPOSAL  
STANDARDS LAB

TOTAL



3. Physical Equipment Transfer: A great deal of delicate equipment has to be transported. SPPF is beginning to feel the transportation pinch from the base which provides this service. Packing is becoming excessively expensive for many of our one-of-a-kind items. To reduce this, we will use our own airlift where practical. In addition our Bridgehead facility has just received a new air-ride van. Fragile equipment can be placed in the van uncrated and supported by balloon air bags. This is a very safe and inexpensive way to transfer equipment.

4. Color Task Force Publication. The second CTF book was reviewed. Some additions were written into the first section. The document is being published and bound this week and will be ready for distribution the week of 10 March.

5. Pollution and Baird-Atomic Printer for [redacted]  
On Thursday afternoon (27 Feb) I met with the R&D Division and [redacted] from the [redacted]. The two items above were discussed.

~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

Delete This Security Group  
GROUP HAS BEEN REMOVED FROM THE ROLL OF  
EXECUTIVE GROUPS IN 1962 IN ACCORDANCE WITH  
GROUP SECURITY REGULATIONS

CONTROL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_ COPIES  
PAGE 2 OF \_\_\_\_\_ PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

Baird Atomic Printer. Mr. [redacted] was informed of our earlier decision with [redacted] not to accelerate the delivery of the printer - to delay design drawing work - and to go with the game plan of the cutter-collator and Redondo printer. Mr. [redacted] had been informed by [redacted] and Lt [redacted] of this decision earlier, but did not understand that the design drawings would also be delayed. This was made clear as well as specific reasons for the decision.

Pollution. Mr. [redacted] had been working on the pollution question ever since the viscous material completely clogged our Vapor Compressor Evaporator (VCE). He had five options he was presenting to Mr. [redacted] this week. They included the gamut of contracting a truck to haul the effluent away, to various uses of the VCE, all the way back to the original concept of installing a bug farm.

The main problem encountered with the VCE was that the particular viscous agent used by Eastman Kodak develops a very strong molecular chain which would not degrade and break which caused the viscous to become a rubbery blob when evaporated, thereby clogging the unit. Various chemical analyses were done at SPPF and [redacted]. The viscous agent has a huge oxygen demand. By bubbling oxygen through a viscous holding tank the structure breaks down. Another way is to spray hydrogen peroxide into the feed lines. We anticipated [redacted] decision within two weeks.

Another approach I intend to pursue at the CCB in April is to discuss with Kodak the possibility of using a different viscous agent. Their present Hercules #250 is a tough chain holder. Hercules lists approximately 700 viscous agents of which some are loose chain holders. I will have Kodak study this problem to see if we can relieve ourselves of a problem at [redacted].

6. R&D Budget for FY-76. Time did not permit a complete review of the R&D budget. It will be presented at the executive session of the CCB in April.

As phase-out approaches and moves have definite dates attached, a closer relationship between the NRO Staff and AFSPPF is required. I will attempt to provide this tie within the TDY fund restriction.

[redacted]  
WESLEY D. OWENS  
Lt Colonel, USA [redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~

CLASS Delet 100118  
CONTROL NO. DECLASSIFIED BY [redacted]  
EXECUTIVE SECRET [redacted]  
COPY AND DECLASSIFY ON [redacted]

CONTROL NO. \_\_\_\_\_  
COPY 3 OF 3 COPIES  
PAGE 3 OF 3 PAGES

HANDLE VIA [redacted]