

**HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND  
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
OFFUTT AIR FORCE BASE, NEBRASKA**



**24 JUN 1960**

**General Thomas D. White  
Chief of Staff  
United States Air Force  
Washington 25, D. C.**

**Dear Tommy**

Reference is made to your letter of 16 June regarding the need to develop some well-organized interim plans for exploitation of any possible data from Reconnaissance Satellite tests. My immediate concern lies in the responsibility you have placed on SAC to have a processing capability available in time for the SAMOS launches scheduled to begin in September.

As you know, the processing of any take from the R&D launches was to have been carried out by a joint ARDC-SAC effort. This was to be accomplished at a facility to be established here at Offutt and designated as "Early-Fix". Recently, the funds for this project were frozen. Therefore, this facility cannot be made available in time for the first few firings.

As a result of the funds freeze action, we have developed a plan to provide a processing capability sufficient for the R&D launches. This plan consists of three steps or phases that will minimize any slippages in construction programs. Step I will utilize existing personnel, equipment and facilities of the 544th Reconnaissance Technical Group here at this headquarters. This capability is already in being with the exception of a few items of equipment peculiar to the SAMOS system. These items are scheduled for completion prior to the first launch and can be readily installed in the existing facility of the 544th RTG. This arrangement can take care of the immediate situation, and adequately process the data from the first few launches. However, as the number of launches increases, it is essential that the balance of the SAMOS equipment be installed in the "Early-Fix" facility (Step II) in an orderly

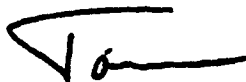
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progression. Since the 4999th Data Processing Squadron (ARDC) has been activated at Offutt and has already been partially manned there will be no interruption in changing from Step I to Step II. Step III provides the equipments and facilities necessary for final system evaluation and makes optimum utilization of all expenditures incurred in Step II. This over-all plan provides for the growth of the system in an austere manner. It further provides for growth in an operational intelligence environment that does not exist elsewhere.

Since receipt of your letter of 16 June a message from your headquarters to AFRCE-MR directs immediate termination of the "Early-Fix" construction contract. It is important that this directive be rescinded and the attached proposal be implemented as soon as feasible.

I am attaching a copy of this plan for your information. I have sent the original to General Schriever with the recommendation that it be incorporated in the new SAMOS exploitation plan. It should then provide the means of accomplishing our dual responsibilities in a mutually acceptable manner.

Sincerely



**THOMAS S. POWER**  
General, USAF  
Commander in Chief

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