

Trexler
NRL

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[] MINUTES
of

SP-9/19/58

First Meeting of

Working Group to Consider NRL Proposal for an Electronic Intelligence Satellite

Convened at 1000 hours, 56569 Pentagon

28 July 1958

[] CHAIRMAN

Attendance:

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CDR F. W. Hitz, Jr. Op-303

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Mr. James H. Trexler, NRL

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The attached agenda was followed. In the minutes given below, Item Numbers refer to those on the agenda.

ITEM NO. 1

A. Mr. Trexler reviewed the NRL proposal, using large graphics and showing one of the antennas designed for the satellite. (Copies of the proposal are available through []). He stated that, in addition to the original design, provision was being considered for transmitting pulse length, but that the equipment presently designed for the purpose was temperature sensitive and might not be ready on a timely basis. It was agreed in this connection that the program should not be delayed because of this feature.

Questions related to the following items arose during Mr. Trexler's presentation; a brief of the discussion of each is given here, although such discussion was intended to be only preliminary.

a. Jamming - The transmission frequency chosen is the best based upon available information....Mobile interrogation points aboard ships would tend to defeat jamming....Some intelligence will be derived if we find that the Soviets can detect the satellite and jam its transmissions.

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b. Special Equipment required [redacted] errogation points - Receiving equipment would not be a critical problem. Receivers might require modification, and steerable Yagi antennas will have to be provided. The chief difficulty at the various points would probably arise in having a man visit each one in order to provide appropriate instruction.

c. Read-out difficulties - This refers to the problem of identifying one signal from another, and Mr. Trexler indicated that, considering some past experience, the problem was not a critical one.

d. Number of man-years required to process data from ten passes over the USSR - It was suggested that, from the standpoint of economy of batteries and manpower, data from one pass be taken and analyzed before data was taken from another pass. This initial experience could then provide the basis for a doctrine of use on an operational basis.

e. [redacted] then briefed the Air Force 117L program as given by the ARPA Military Reconnaissance Satellite Program Progress Report for the quarter ending 31 March 1958, comparing its general features against those of the satellite proposed by NRL. These were as follows:

<u>NRL</u>		<u>117L</u>
single function	versus	multiple functions
simplicity	versus	complexity
low cost	versus	high cost
capability in 1958	versus	pioneer capability in 1960

In addition to these items, there was some thought that the NRL might, because of its lighter weight, be orbited at higher altitudes which would allow a longer time in orbit than the 117L. This would be a distinct advantage if electronic life could be extended significantly.

The comparisons given above indicate the general approach which the report of the working group will take in order to make the best possible case for the NRL proposal.

G. [redacted] commented that the NRL proposal fits in very well with current intelligence requirements and that he considers it a stopgap prior to MRRG. He also feels that it is tailored to the Navy situation regarding manpower.

ITEM NO. 2

It was decided to use the unclassified codeword of TATTLETALE for the satellite, since it repeats what it hears.

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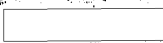
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ITEM NO. 3

Members indicated that they would like to see the time scales proposed for the 117L, together with some other documentation which will be obtained by Op-92B3. Accordingly, Op-92B3 will maintain a central TATTLETALE file which members of group may consult at any time.

ITEM NO. 4

The schedule of meetings set forth in this item was generally approved. It was decided to hold the second meeting on 4 August in order to allow  to make possible visits to Haller, Raymond and Brown, State College Pa, and the Airborne Instruments Laboratory, Mineola, Long Island where information pertinent to the work of the group might be obtained. Meetings beginning with the second will last nearly a full day and be as frequent as possible.

Submitted:



Secretary

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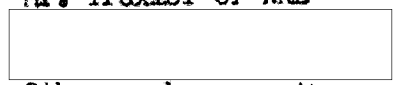


CHAIRMAN

1. Statement of the Problem by:



Mr. Traxler of NRL



Other members as they may desire

Discussion as appropriate.

2. Discussion of desirability of adopting a code name for use in telephone conversations.

3. Distribution of pertinent documents and decision concerning whether additional documentation is needed.

4. Tentative plans for future meetings. The following are suggested:

Second meeting - general discussion after studying documentation.

Third meeting - submission of draft material for report and outlining of the report itself.

Fourth meeting - consideration of draft report.

Fifth meeting - consideration of final report if necessary.

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