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SP-17472-348

MINUTES

of

Third Meeting of

Working Group to Consider NRL Proposal for an Electronic Intelligence Satellite

Convened at 0900 hours, 4A566 Pentagon

21 August 1958

[Redacted]

CHAIRMAN

Attendance:

[Redacted]

CDR F. W. MITZ, JR., OP-308

[Redacted]

MR. J. H. TRAYLOR, NRL

[Redacted]

MR. H. S. LORENZEN, NRL

[Redacted]

Report of [Redacted] California Trip to Air Force Ballistic Missile Division and Lockheed Aircraft

1. [Redacted] reported as follows:

- a. There will be no reconnaissance payload on the first 19 Thor boosted firings in the 1174 program.
- b. The first 1174 vehicle with an SEINT capability is not scheduled to be launched until June 1960.
- c. Apparently some emphasis will be placed on bio-medical experiments.
- d. Development of a recovery capability will be attempted.

Revised Text of NRL Proposal

2. As the result of questions and discussion at the second meeting, Mr. Lorenzen submitted new text for the NRL proposal, a copy of which is available at OP-92B3 and OP-9224. The new text indicates that "a life of approximately 12 months can be obtained from a 20-inch satellite weighing approximately 35 pounds". In this connection, it was also stated that the power efficiency of the transmitter had been increased from 40% to 50%.

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Information on Technological Status and Cost of NRL Proposal

3. Mr. Lorenzen presented information on the technological status and cost of the NRL proposal along the lines requested at the second meeting, as follows:

- a. Of the various electronic components, only the modulator presents an unsolved problem, and it is not critical.
- b. The total cost, as itemized, for the first S-band vehicle would be \$153,000, with subsequent units costing about \$50,000 each.
- c. Brochures showing "pre-packaged" ground station equipment in a pre-fabricated hut were shown.

Other Cost Information

4. [redacted] of CP-91 indicated that the cost of a satellite launching was about \$5 million or more, and that about 6 attempted launchings were currently required to place a vehicle in orbit; this would place the cost of the first orbiting NRL vehicle in the neighborhood of \$30 million, the price of approximately one year's time in having an "ELINT" satellite capability in advance of the 117L program.

Conclusions and Recommendations of the Meeting

5. As the result of general discussion, it became apparent that the working group was now prepared to make a positive recommendation concerning the proposal which would take the form of both a written report and a briefing prepared according to the following outline:

- a. Statement of Proposal
- b. Technical Feasibility
- c. Operational Feasibility
- d. Statement of Intelligence Requirement
- e. Fiscal Considerations

The various items were assigned to members for the preparation of drafts of text which were to be submitted at the next meeting which will be held on 26 August at 0900 hours in 14666 Pentagon. After review by the group, the portions of the text (with possible revisions) will be placed together in the form of a complete draft which will be edited by the secretary and distributed for final comment.

Submitted,

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