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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

July 11, 1967

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. FLAX

SUBJECT: Thermal-Vacuum Chamber for SIGINT Satellites

PROBLEM

To provide test facilities for thermal-vacuum testing of assembled payloads for Programs 770, [] 989.

BACKGROUND

See Part I of General Martin's message at right.

DISCUSSION

In discussing General Martin's message (CHARGE 7954) with [] several additional questions arose which Colonel Haig discussed with Colonel Bradburn on July 6. From this discussion it appears that it is possible to perform the thermal-vacuum tests on the 770, [] and 989 payloads now on contract without buying a new chamber. However, this alternative will result in some schedule conflicts and non-recoverable costs.

The alternatives are described in Part II B of General Martin's message. The one time non-recoverable cost if the new chamber is not purchased will be about \$350,000 to move the 770 test equipment to building 104. Up to six weeks slip in the 770 Program could

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result (four weeks is more likely). Conflicts in the use of chambers would result but probably would not require schedule adjustments greater than two weeks in any program provided all tests are completed in scheduled times. However this is doubtful; should a test have to be repeated serious schedule conflicts could result.

While the minimum environmental tests could be provided to the SIGINT programs from existing resources, to do so would task the limited LMSC test facilities beyond the point of efficient operation. Also the cost of moving the 770 test equipment would be non-recoverable while the chamber would represent an asset of enduring value.

RECOMMENDATION

That you approve the SP plan to purchase the new chamber.

David L. Carter

DAVID L. CARTER
Colonel, USAF

Attachments

CHARGE 7954 (TAB A)

FY 68 Financial Plan Proj. 770 (TAB B)

O.K. - THIS IS ANOTHER SP "OVERSIGHT"
ITEM (NOT BUDGETED), BUT LOOKS LIKE THE
ALTERNATIVE IS WORSE.



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