

EYES ONLY

WDT

12 January 1958

MEMORANDUM TO GENERALS SCHRIEVER AND RITLAND

SUBJECT: AF Reputation with Stewart Committee, OSD, and How This Influences AF Astronautic Programming Action

1. In accordance with our conversation on Friday, 10 January at the Baltimore International Airport, I have included hereafter a series of statements concerning the Stewart Committee's reactions to the AF satellite program. These reactions were gleaned from conversations with Jack Carter and Gene Root of Lockheed Aircraft, George Clement - member of the Stewart group, Gen Anderson of Hq ARDC (as a result of his conversation with Dick Horner) and Col Asa Gibbs, USAF representative at NRL Vanguard project. In addition I have included some comments by Dr. Mattler concerning AF reputation with Dr. York and Dr. Kistiakowsky.
2. The first inkling of dissatisfaction came from Jack Carter and Gene Root on 8 January when they stated that their conversation with George Clement gave them the feeling that the DOD (through the Stewart Committee) was not very impressed with the AF satellite program. As a result of this statement I called George Clement Saturday night and he talked very cautiously of the committee's reactions as follows:
 - a. The committee felt the AF did not indicate much interest in a satellite program and that in the series of presentations (three in number) presented by the Army, Navy, and AF, the Army and Navy had exhibited much higher interest in satellite programs and it was their feeling (Stewart Committee) that the Army and Navy should get the satellite activity at this time. Getting the feeling that they felt this way because the other services could react faster I pointed out to Clement that our first flight 117L is presently scheduled within the same time period as the activities of the other two services and that this should be evidence of our interest. (I neglected to press home the point that our project has been in existence for several years and that this should also be evidence of our interest in this field.)
 - b. Clement further informed me that their report had several recommendations. He wouldn't say what they were but instead he offered the information that what he thought would really happen was that we would keep 117L and he summed it up by saying that he thought the results of this exercise would be that the other services would get into the satellite business.
3. The next day in the Pentagon, Asa Gibbs said essentially the same things to Gen Ritland and the undersigned. Following my departure for ARDC Thursday afternoon Gen Ritland and Col Gibbs visited Horner who in turn called Anderson and by the time I got to Hq ARDC, Anderson repeated the things to me that Gibbs had said that morning plus one additional input -- he was very unhappy because the AF was in the position of not having a satellite program that appealed to the Stewart Committee - this despite the fact that Anderson had sent a five-year astronautics program to Washington recently that included a small photographic satellite but which had been returned from Washington as being inadequate and unacceptable.

EYES ONLY

4. Subsequent to returning to the West Coast, in conversations with Rube Mattler on Saturday I was informed that the attitude of Herb York and George Kistiakowsky had changed radically toward the AF between their visit in December and the one the week of 6 January. Specifically they were criticizing the lack of unity in AF Headquarters which was evidenced in a lack of permanent and firm charter to AFHQ. This lack of action apparently made them feel that the AF was not making maximum use of an organization which had been in existence for three and one-half years and had proved its competence. This feeling has been brought on by the appearance of new faces and new contacts in Washington between the AF and the activities of the Killian group. The above statement of Mattler's concern is included in this memo because it is another reflection of a lack of Hq USAF leadership in establishing decisive policies and requirements in the astronautics field for USAF and in capitalizing on the three and one-half year head start we now have.

5. As a result of the above conditions and my talks with you and General Ritland the week of 6 January, it is my intention to pull together a complete program for presentation to the Air Council, as suggested by you. This will be presented as soon as possible and before 14 March, which is the date Decker is hoping to receive all inputs on space technology development from the centers. If our program is accepted prior to 14 March it will provide the building block around which separate development programs of all the centers can be fashioned.

6. This memo, although very rambling, is submitted to remind you that you wanted to make some contacts with various personnel of the Stewart Committee to try to re-establish in their minds some of our competence, and to assure them we have interest in the satellite program and are proceeding along certain lines.

Cy to Col Oder

SIGNED

CHARLES H. TERHUNE, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Deputy Commander
Weapon Systems