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WVST

12 January 1956

MEMORANDUM TO: Lt. Col. Edwin A. Swain

SUBJECT: Responsibility for Advanced Reconnaissance System

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1. The MDD has been assigned responsibility for the Advanced Reconnaissance System. We have been directed (Enclosure 1) to submit to the ICAF, by 17 January 1956, a development plan for that portion of the ARS program required to place one or more vehicles in an orbit in the International Geophysical Year (July 1957 - Dec 1958) or shortly thereafter. As a basis for planning, it has been decided that the program will consist of the firing of ten vehicles at a rate of roughly one per month beginning in August 1953 and ending in mid 1959. The overall ARS vehicle is expected to be essentially an SM-65C with a new powered third (or 2nd and 3rd) stage replacing the normal nose cone.

2. It is requested that ICAF prepare an estimate of facility requirements, and cost of these facilities, and comments on feasibility of meeting the desired launch schedule. It is anticipated that the launching will involve a cooperative effort between Convair and the ARS prime contractor, similar to nose cone tests on the ICAF program.

3. The differences in launch requirements between the SM 65C and the ARS involve the following essential elements:

a. The ARS nose cone will be slightly longer than standard (although it is hoped that it will clear the standard gantry cross member) and will require additional servicing platforms.

b. Propellant servicing lines must be added to permit servicing the nose cone in place.

c. Hoists must be provided for hoisting the nose cone and mounting on the SM 65 after the latter has been erected.

d. Additional space must be provided for additional nose cone checkout equipment (the ARS nose section is expected to be more complex than the standard cone).

4. It is desired that the estimate cover only that portion of the facilities at Patrick required to permit Convair to attain the additional launching capacity, not the facilities required to receive, checkout service or track the nose cone itself.

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WDIST (MDD, ARDC) MEMO. TO: Col. Swanke
Subject: Responsibility for ARS

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5. No estimate of contractor's plant facilities is requested.
6. It is requested that the estimate be available by 0830 Friday, 13 January 1956.

SIGNED

R. C. TRUAX
Commander, USM

CC: Colonel Glasser

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