

# ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY Washington 25, D. C. file Samos No

MEDICEANDUM FOR CEMERAL COTRANDER

SUBJECT: Summary of SAMOS Program Situation

The purpose of this memorandum is to outline the sequence of events leading to the current confused and inadequate funding situation existing in the SAMOS Program. There is an urgent need for establishing a policy or program decision so that AFRED can proceed with planning, programming and contract negotiations in an intelligent orderly manner.

In January 1959, after a series of progrem reviews and ARPA Air Force discussions, a SAMOS development plan was submitted to ARPA involving a recriented and agreed upon program. The program as presented by AFMO required \$96.6 million for FY 1959 and \$160.0 million for FY 1960. This development plan was approved by ARPA with minor exceptions which are essentially irrelevant to the discussions presented here. The \$160.0 million for FY 1960 provided for an 18 shot R&D program including both readout and recovery. Toward the end of FY 1959, a review of the total ARPA budget for FY 1960 indicated that because of budget ground rules established, certain program adjustments would have to be made. A tex was sent to AFRED citing that only \$135 million would be available for SAMOS in FY 1960. It was suggested in the tex that perhaps this adjustment could be accommodated by deferring recovery. (Contracts at this time had not yet been swarded on the E-5 cemera nor the recovery capsule.) In response to this tex AFMED prepared new development plans in conjunction with which briefings were provided to the Air Force staff and to ARPA in July 1959.

In these briefings it was pointed out that readout alone would require \$143.8 million in FY 1960 Recovery was estimated to require approximately \$25 million in FY 1960 Due to the lack of million in FY 1960 a clear cut policy decision on recovery per se, plus funding difficulties, it was decided independently by both the Air Staff and ARPA that the development plans could not be approved. As a result

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no development plans were officially approved or provided to the Pentagon. Since July, no firm guidance has been provided to AFMO primarily because there has not been a final resolution concerning funds available for the FY 1960-61 time period.

After many more discussions relative to the readout and recovery pros and cons, it was decided that recovery would be reinstated in the SANCS Program. A tex was forwarded to the Secretary of the Air Force containing the following:

- a. Contracts for recovery are authorized immediately, the program level for FY 1960 will be \$148 million.
- c. AFMO will prepare a new development plan at these program levels providing for balanced program which will accommodate recovery at the expense of readout, if necessary.

Currently, contracts are being negotiated on recovery and AFRED is in the process of preparing new development plans in accordance with this guidance. These development plans are due to be submitted during the week of 23 November.

In the meantime, because of budgetary difficulties, some conflicting guidance by the Air Force relative to recovery has been forwarded to AFRAD. The justification for this conflicting guidance is based upon the following reasoning:

- a. Inadequate total funds are available,
- readout has been progressing in the hardware stage for some time,
- c. recovery has not yet entered the hardware stage.

Therefore, it makes more sense from the timely intelligence data acquisition standpoint and is less disruptive to the program, to move into recovery very slowly. As further justification for this position it might be noted that the ANPA SAMOS funds evailable

is inadequate to support the planted readout program alone. If recovery is emphasized, this could mean that within the limited funding available, readout would be essentially eliminated, with a consequent severe loss of time and dollars already invested. It has been ARPA's contention, considering economical and technical factors that both readout and recovery should be developed.

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It is extremely improbable that AFRMD can provide an acceptable development plan this month under these circumstances. To add to the confusion there is the unresolved situation with respect to transfer of ARPA space programs to the services. In addition, the Air Force had budgeted for space programs.

It can be concluded that there is not in existence an integrated program approach, that unilateral actions are being taken, that AFMO is in an extremely difficult position and the the program is thereby suffering unnecessarily. It is strongly recommended that an Air Force-ARPA meeting be held with the objective of arriving at a firm joint position relative to the technical approach to be followed and the joint program funding level to be supported. This joint position should then be provided to the Director of Research and Engineering in order that a firm decision can be made and meaningful guidance provided to AFMO.

Edward E. Harriman Chief, Satellite Branch

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#### SUBMARY OF SANOS FUNDING SITUATION

Required (Jan 58 dayl.plan)

FY 1960

Required - July 59 briefing

readout recovery total



Available (ARPA guidence)

146.0

Available (Current)

148.0

Available (Air Porce)

(operational program)

Wrunds in millions of dollars.

