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CANCELLATION OF PROJECT SALAAM

In an effort to secure funds for the SALAAM program, the Army Corps of Engineers presented the SALAAM proposal to ARPA for review. ARPA authorized [REDACTED] for a G. E. study of the proposal. G. E. completed the study and the results were presented to ARPA and Dr. York.

After careful consideration of the study and the role that the SALAAM results would play in the National Defense effort as well as political consequences of such an endeavor, all further work on SALAAM was cancelled. Future development of the SALAAM satellite, however, was not completely ruled out. The SALAAM proposal will be reviewed periodically as requirements for the SALAAM product become more critical and the political climate becomes more favorably disposed toward use of satellites as reconnaissance type vehicles.

The need for the type data produced by the SALAAM program would become more critical as the character of the National Defense Forces of the U.S. phase into greater dependence upon missiles. At this point, while the U.S. has a mixed striking force, the SALAAM program is not as critical. Current programs are emphasizing R&D efforts to advance space technology which should develop capabilities for future satellite operations such as the SALAAM Program.

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The above determination coupled with the weighty political overtones of overflight of the USSR by satellites for reconnaissance or mapping purposes was responsible for the cancellation of the SALAAM.

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