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CANCELLATION OF PROJECT VEDAS

1. In an effort to secure funds for the VEDAS program, the Army Corps of Engineers presented the VEDAS proposal 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 the results were presented to ARPA and Dr. York.
2. After careful consideration of the study and the role that the VEDAS results would play in the National Defense effort as well as political consequences of such an endeavor, all further work on VEDAS was cancelled. Future development of the VEDAS satellite, however, was not completely ruled out. The VEDAS proposal will be reviewed periodically as requirements for the VEDAS product become more critical and the political climate becomes more favorably disposed toward use of satellites as reconnaissance type vehicles.
3. The need for the type data produced by the VEDAS 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 VEDAS 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 VEDAS 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 VEDAS.

Another minor objection to the VEDAS program was the placement of an operational type VEDAS program in the R&D non-operational DISCOVERER series which is already committed to a full R&D program.

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