



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.



REPLY TO  
ATTN OF: AFRDS

24 NOV 1969

SUBJECT: Data Relay Satellite Support to the NRO

SAFSS (General Allen)

1. Reference is made to your 25 September 1969 memorandum to me, subject as above.

2. In response to referenced memorandum on 10 October 1969, SAMSO submitted an abridged management plan for Air Force development of a Data Relay Satellite (DRS) in support of the NRO. Since that time there has been considerable discussion among participating agencies, and a memorandum from SAFRD to SAFUS, attempting to arrive at a management concept mutually agreeable to the Air Force and the NRO. It is apparent to me that there is still one fundamental area of disagreement regarding the conduct of the DRS development and it basically pertains to the authority for specific management procedures on the program. The Air Force recognizes the importance of the DRS development to the overall NRO Readout Technology program and the considerable technological challenge involved in meeting the NRO requirements within the specified time schedule. We are anxious to accept the challenge and are confident that the program will provide significant benefit to other Air Force space programs. We do believe, however, that we must be allowed to implement the specific procedures that are most adaptable to the normal Air Force way of doing business. It is intended that this program be conducted and justified on the basis of a "white" development with the knowledge of NRO involvement restricted to an absolute minimum.

2. The Air Force does not intend, in any manner, to impend NRO visibility into the program nor restrict NRO technical direction of the DRS interface, but we cannot accept the concept of a SAMSO SPO established as a separate entity which is responsible only to the NRO. If you are convinced that such an arrangement is required to insure meeting the technical requirements and schedule of the NRO mission satellite, I would urge that the DRS program be placed under SAFSP which is structured for that type of management arrangement.

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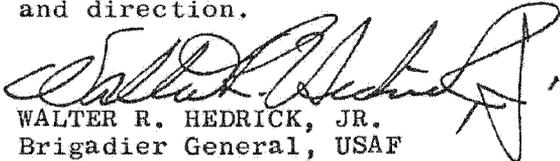
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4. If it is decided to develop a DRS capability for the NRO within the Air Force [ ] and a "white" program is acceptable to the NRO, a management procedure is attached which we would propose to implement. The plan would provide general guidance to the SPO pending preparation by SAMSO of a more detailed plan. We assume that you would also provide the Air Force with written direction regarding the Byeman aspects of the program. Specific procedures contained in the attached plan are, of course, negotiable. In the area of "black" security, we look solely to the NRO for guidance and direction.



WALTER R. HEDRICK, JR.  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Director of Space  
DCS/Research & Development

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