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19 March 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief of Projects

SUBJECT: Weekly Status Report No. 26 on Project FULCRUM

1. Camera System

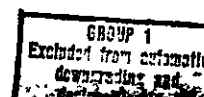
A. ITEK - The major part of the FULCRUM reports and hardware was shipped by rented truck from Itek to P. E. on 17 March. Reports overdue from Itek include:

- (1) Fabrication and mounting feasibility report,
- (2) System dynamics analysis,
- (3) Probability study,
- (4) Transport flow plan report,
- (5) Final Summary Report (Phase II).

Reports received this week consisted of the updated interface specification document, the completion of the camera design report, and a number of Tech Memos.

A status report on the G. F. E. film was submitted by twix on 17 March, and approval to destroy scrap film was subsequently transmitted in response. Permission was denied Itek's request to retain one set of project documentation on the FULCRUM program, primarily for security reasons.

Messrs. Shannon, Galat, and Cohen of Itek visited P. E. on 18 March to discuss technical details of the Itek design. Messrs. Batchelder and Gibson of Itek visited P. E. on ²³19 March to discuss structural and thermal aspects, respectively, of the Itek design.

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B. P.E. - Messrs. Dirks, [] and McDonald attended a two-day briefing at P. E., consisting of the spacecraft and recovery vehicle presentations on 16 March and RCA's presentation on 17 March. The primary purpose of these briefings was to present to P. E. the current developmental status of the two other associate contractors and to present the status of interface previously arrived at. RCA's briefing was intended as a possible film handling technique for the FULCRUM project. P. E. completed its study of the Itak design on 19 March and will present their corporate decision on their use of that basic design in the FULCRUM program to Dr. Wheelon and Project Office personnel on 22 March.

C. STL - The delivery of the Final Report constituted the termination of this contract, and while it is anticipated that further film handling studies will be conducted at STL in support of the program, these studies will probably be handled under the SEAC contract.

D. RCA - Messrs. Parker, Isom, and Kenville presented a briefing on their sheet-fed film handling system on 17 March at P. E. Representatives of the Project Office and Avco were present for the discussions, but it is premature to judge whether P.E. would be willing to employ this concept under their payload contract.

2. Spacecraft

Messrs. Hood, Petty, Stamm, and Reese gave the spacecraft briefing to P. E. on 16 March and volunteered their services in any areas where they might be helpful to P. E., specifically in the TT&C area.

Messrs. Hood and Watts visited Headquarters on 19 March and discussed with Messrs. [] and [] the security aspects of the Phase II development effort. It was agreed that most subsystem contracts could be let on an unclassified basis and that a few, such as the command and attitude control subsystems would be let under a DOD secret contract. Thus, although everyone working in Building 4 would have either a FM-2 or a FM-3 clearance, all developmental contracts could be handled in the white.

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[redacted] was requested on 15 March to evaluate all aspects of the G. E. and G. E. /STL programmer with a view toward approving or disapproving G. E.'s make or buy decision by 1 April.

3. Recovery System

Dr. Berninger and Mr. Cahow briefed P. E. on 16 March on the RV development status. They also remained for the RCA briefing the following day and contributed to the discussions of handling the sheets of film in the RV.

4. Systems Engineering

Messrs. Besserer, Grady, Quick, and Cianciotto presented a briefing at Headquarters on 16 March on their proposed management control plan, Phase II program plan, and test plan philosophy. Although essentially the same briefing was scheduled to be presented subsequently to Avco and G. E., it was decided for several reasons not to give these briefings but rather to wait for a more opportune time and reschedule them then. During the briefing at Headquarters the role of SEAC was presented by STL and, in general, agreed to by the Project Office after discussion. The 22 specific areas delineated included the preparation and review of all work statements, the review of all CCN action, the conduct of major systems' tests, and the evaluation of system performance and specification compliance. Copies of the briefing charts and the "System Program Plan" were left for use by the Project Office.

[redacted] met with Mr. Stech, the contracts officer for STL, on 18 March to discuss the current SEAC contract status.

5. Interface Aspects

In view of the delays caused by transfer of the payload contract, interface negotiations are at a virtual standstill.

O/DDST/SPS [redacted] /mes/5725 (22 March 65)

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