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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

COPY

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

July 25, 1967

MEMORANDUM For M/Dr. Mueller

Subject: Termination of the Lunar Mapping and Survey System

References: Memo to AD from P, subject: Lunar Mapping and Survey System (LMSS), dated June 19, 1967.
Memo to M and S (unsigned) from AD, subject as above, dated June 19, 1967.
Memo to AD from M, subject as above (SECRET) dated July 5, 1967.
Memo to M from AD, subject as above, dated July 13, 1967.
Memo to AD from M, subject as above, dated July 18, 1967.

The potential requirements for the lunar mapping and survey system (LMSS) have been under review for some time, as indicated in the referenced documentation. At this time, there are no requirements that I feel are sufficiently realistic to warrant continuation of this development effort.

The original justification for the LMSS, a backup Apollo site certification capability in the event of Surveyor or Lunar Orbiter inadequacies, is no longer valid, since at least four Apollo sites have been certified and the last Lunar Orbiter will, if successful, increase that to eight. Planning for the Apollo Applications Program is not yet firm enough to enable us to specify sites or site certification requirements; Apollo mission experience will be the largest contributor to this question. Scientific needs for photomapping are being met by the current Surveyor and Orbiter series and, of themselves, do not warrant major hardware development or manned lunar orbital missions. The desirability of a quick-reaction photographic capability to survey accidents that might occur on the lunar surface cannot be denied, but the LMSS does not have the desired flexibility. The LMSS would require a separate Saturn V flight at a considerable interval from the event to be investigated; some \$45 million is yet to be spent in FY 1968 and FY 1969 for completion of development; and the question of effective long-term storage has not been analyzed.

I therefore have determined that the LMSS effort is to be terminated and the hardware bought to date is to be stored until a further determination of its disposition can be made. I would like you to

issue an immediate stop order to the Air Force, Centers, and contractors involved in the LMSS. I would like to have on or about August 8, 1967, a detailed termination plan that lays out the funding and hardware situation, the sequence of action steps to be followed, and recommendations for storage or utilization of various LMSS elements.

On a longer term basis, I believe that we would be wise to examine alternate low-cost approaches to the problem of photographing equipment on the lunar surface. I believe this is especially important on the first manned landing missions; ideally, the CSM should be able to obtain meaningful information about any LM accident before returning to earth. While the possibility of an incident in which photography would be the only data available for analysis is considered very remote, I feel it would be worthwhile to have a simple high-quality CSM photographic system available before the first lunar landing. I would appreciate your staff working with the other program and staff offices in the analysis of this possibility.

/Signed/

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.
Deputy Administrator

CC: A/Mr. Webb
S/Dr. Newell
R/Dr. Adams
P/Mr. Wyatt
D/Mr. Finger
X/Mr. Biggs