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Ltr, AWS, An Air Force Meteorological Satellite System, 26 Aug 60

2nd Ind

Dept of the AF, Hq USAF, Washington 25, D. C.

TO: MATS, Scott AFB, Ill

1. The Air Weather Service proposal for an Air Force developed, procured and operated Meteorological Satellite System is returned without action. While this headquarters agrees that there is an urgent military requirement for the data made available through use of a meteorological satellite, it is not considered essential that the satellite system be USAF controlled. Our requirements for data are similar to those of the U. S. Weather Bureau and the Naval Weather Service. It therefore appears to be in the national interest to have a single national meteorological satellite system rather than separate ones for each weather service.
2. Representatives of DOD-NASA-FAA and the Department of Commerce met initially on 10 October 1960, to consider and initiate steps toward such an operational system. Brigadier General N. L. Peterson, Commander, Air Weather Service, is participating in these talks as the primary USAF member. The Air Weather Service proposal will be used as a guide in preparing the USAF position.
3. This constitutes final action by this Headquarters on your request for validation of the Qualitative Operational Requirement stated in the basic communication.

FOR THE CHIEF OF STAFF

WILLARD W. SMITH
Brigadier General, USAF
Deputy Director of Operational
Requirements, DCS/O

1 Atch n/c

*from AFORQ-OS-C
5D-238*

*This copy received
per request, on
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SAFMS/LtCol Istvan/ell/78912/19 Sep 60

19 September 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR OF THE SAMOS PROJECT

SUBJECT: Meteorological Requirements for SAMOS Satellite System (U)

The statement of the Air Weather Service capability to support SAMOS is herewith forwarded.

The Chief, Air Weather Service has indicated the desire to brief the Director of the SAMOS Project concerning requirements related to providing weather support for the SAMOS Project and the functioning of the special task team which has been organized to direct the Air Weather Service support to the SAMOS Satellite System. It is suggested that such a briefing be arranged within the next thirty to forty-five days, through direct contact with Hq Air Weather Service. Contact officer at Hq Air Weather Service is Lt Col Donald E. Martin, Chief, Evaluation and Development Division, Directorate of Scientific Services. He may be contacted at Extension 5109, Scott AFB, Belleville, Ill (ADAMS 4-4000).

It is requested that a representative from this office be invited to attend the briefing.

1 Atch
Ltr Hq AFMND, 31 Mar 60,
subj as abv, to ARDC
w/5 Incls

RICHARD D. CURTIN
Brigadier General, USAF
Director, Office of Missile
and Satellite Systems

Cy to: Hq ARDC
ATT: Col Norman Appold
(w/cy 4th Ind fr Hq ANS,
25 Aug 60, to MATS,
subj as abv)

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Ltr, Hq AFWS (METS), 31 Mar 60, Meteorological Requirements for SAMOS
Satellite System (U)

4th Ind

Hq AWS

25 AUG 1960

TO: MATS (MAGC/AM)

1. The present Air Weather Service capability to support SAMOS is as follows:

a. A limited cloud-cover forecasting capability exists in manually prepared cloud analyses and forecasts. Forecasts for periods extending to 36 hours can be made which show skill over both persistence and climatology. However, it must be pointed out that the detail of cloud cover needed for optimum support of SAMOS cannot be provided with the present observational network. Russian surface-weather stations are very sparse in many regions; and, it is conceivable that observations from them could be denied us in an intensification of the cold war. (Secret)

b. Six-hourly climatological data are available for a limited number of stations in Eurasia. Monthly maps giving frequencies of $\leq 2/8$ total cloud cover at local noon have been prepared for the Communist Bloc countries. (Secret)

2. A program has been set up to provide a more comprehensive assessment of these capabilities. The 6594th Test Wing Satellite Test Center (STC) will receive forecasts and verifying analyses from 3d Weather Wing for each test flight beginning with B-1 in September. From these, STC will determine the increase in satellite effectiveness achieved by use of forecasts as compared with climatology and persistence, will establish current capabilities, and will isolate those aspects of the forecasts where improvement is most necessary. (Secret)

3. The following actions are being taken to improve our capability to support SAMOS:

a. A program is being developed to computerize the analysis and forecasting of clouds, making full use of ground-station observations, pilot weather reports, and any other observations, such as those from meteorological satellites, which may be available. (Uml)

b. The AWS Climatic Center is improving its capability to support the SAMOS mission by increasing its store of meteorological data and by arranging them in a form more amenable to the solution of satellite reconnaissance problems. (Uml)

c. In order to give this program the high priority it deserves, Air Weather Service has established a special Task Team to direct the AWS support to the SAMOS satellite system. (Uml)

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4. From a preliminary analysis of the thousands of cloud pictures made available by TINGO I, it is clearly evident that the degree of cloud detail and coverage necessary for the optimum support of SAMOS can be obtained only by a cloud-observing satellite. These observational data, combined with other meteorological parameters, will provide the variable input information for the computerized forecasting techniques mentioned in 3a above. Cloud data which result from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) weather satellite experiments will be used in both the manual and computerized analysis and forecasting techniques. However, cloud information from the NASA experiments cannot be depended upon for routine operational use, because these experiments are flown primarily to gather research data. Any real-time use of these data is given secondary consideration. NASA has no plans to operate a routine weather observation satellite system. In an effort to provide the benefits of satellite weather data for the support of Air Force operations, particularly SAMOS and MIDAS, the Air Weather Service is presently submitting through MATS to Hq USAF a proposal for a simplified satellite system which could be operated as an organic Air Force support system. (Secret)
5. This intersegment is classified Secret because it contains information on the capability of Air Weather Service to support the satellite reconnaissance systems.

W. H. PETERSON
Brigadier General, USAF
Commander

~~SECRET~~

SAFSP-DP/Maj Guy/3321

15 November 1960

SUBJECT: "Air Weather Service Briefing", 15 November 1960

TO: SAFMS (Lt Col Edwin J. Istvan)

1. In accordance with verbal request, Colonel Istvan, a list of personnel who attended the "Air Weather Service Briefing", 0900 hours, 15 November 1960, Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, is submitted. The briefing was presented by Dr. Robert D. Fletcher, Air Weather Service Command.

SAFMS

Lt Col Edwin J. Istvan

SAFSP



HQ, AADC

Captain Harry H. Bristol, Jr.

AFSD

Lt Col Richard L. Danner (WBZES)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT-1)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT-2)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT-3)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT-4)
Major [redacted] (WBZRT-5)

AWS

Colonel James T. Seaver
Lt Col Adolph Gaertner
Major James R. Smith
Dr. Robert D. Fletcher

PRC (Planning Research Corporation, Santa Monica, Calif)

Dr. Alex Wyllly
Mr. Bob Hudson

RAND CORPORATION (Santa Monica, California)

Mr. John H. Huntzicker

2. There were twelve staff members from the Air Force Ballistic Missile Division, Aerospace Corporation, and Rand Corporation who had indicated a desire to attend the briefing but were unable to do so based on illness and other requirements.


Major, USAF
Plans Division
SAMOS Project Office