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**HEADQUARTERS**  
**AIR FORCE BALLISTIC MISSILE DIVISION (AFBMD)**  
**UNITED STATES AIR FORCE**  
Air Force Unit Post Office, Los Angeles 45, California



REPLY TO:  
ATTN OF: **WHEW/Dr Rockefeller/R37A**

SUBJECT: **Request for Information**

**24 JAN 1961**

TO: **WHEW (Col. Ayres)**

1. Reference your telephoned request of 22 January for

[REDACTED]

2. [REDACTED]

3. This information was prepared from material in the AFMD archives. It can be furnished. It has not been classified with any AFMD document.

**SIGNED**

**Alfred Rockefeller, Jr.**  
Historian  
Air Force Ballistic Missile Division  
Air Research & Development Command

**A. Wick**  
Development of the ICBM/US IIR  
Development & Management Structure (G)  
W-1 Staff

**as Lt. Colonel Quinn - WMD**

When incl. items are withdrawn the classification of this correspondence will be downgraded to *Secret* in accordance with AFR 203.1.

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DRAFT

24 JAN 1961

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF  
AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

The report of the Air Force Research Institute, entitled "Design Study of the Air Force Research Institute's Conceptual Study of the Future of the Air Force" (dated 15 Oct 1958) led to the establishment of the current IAS program. This report presented a preliminary assessment of the program and delineation of the preliminary responsibilities. The IAS group, chaired by Colonel John von Neumann, and whose report was basic to the program, recommended a complete design review based on a new and comprehensive system study, and exploration of alternate approaches to various problems based on fundamental science. This study views the IAS as such a difficult development as to require establishment of a development management group which should bear direct responsibility for the design project, and a technical organization of the IAS project considerably exceeding the current resources of a military research vehicle.

The need for development of research in the nuclear and strength fields is a matter of national concern. Such a program is being supported by the highest level government executives in industry, military, and government organizations.

It is recommended to have that in other papers subsequent to this report (15 Oct 1958) by Colonel von Neumann, Special Assistant to the Chief of Staff, and the Secretary of the Air Force, H. E. Talbot, to

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS  
E.O. 13526

PREPARED BY HQ AFBMD HISTORIAN

DRAFT

The first of the recommendations of the Committee is that the Government should take steps to ensure that the production of the atomic energy program is carried out in a manner which will be consistent with the national interest.

The second of the recommendations is that the Government should take steps to ensure that the production of the atomic energy program is carried out in a manner which will be consistent with the national interest. It is suggested that the Government should take steps to ensure that the production of the atomic energy program is carried out in a manner which will be consistent with the national interest.

The third of the recommendations is that the Government should take steps to ensure that the production of the atomic energy program is carried out in a manner which will be consistent with the national interest. It is suggested that the Government should take steps to ensure that the production of the atomic energy program is carried out in a manner which will be consistent with the national interest.

[Redacted]

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The management aspect was not considered necessary by the Committee, or by Dr. Donald A. Quisenberry, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Research and Development, who attended the Committee meeting as an observer.

The Committee expressed strong doubt as to General's management and technical capacity to handle system responsibility for the project. Dr. Quisenberry stated that a decision was necessary on who had system responsibility. As stated in the Committee minutes:

It was noted that the so-called system contractor had to be held responsible in case of a failure. In such case the West-Whitbridge Corporation was part of the system, responsibility and could be held. It was stated that the West-Whitbridge Corporation must have system responsibility in such case there should not be any confusion as to the line. It should be as required to have the necessary strong line technical direction over the other contractors, and the other contractors should be so informed.

The Committee considered members of the Committee expressed doubt as to whether the current program was strong enough for system responsibility. The group would be strengthening of the organization with a clear and single direction of authority and responsibility for system engineering.

As a result of these comments minutes, on 20 July 1954 General, Major, and Colonel, Assistant General, however to ensure a study to the basic role of R&D in the program, with particular reference to who will be responsible for the level of engineering technical quality provided by a prime system system contractor.