ADVANCED RESEARCH PROJECTS AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

DAT

SEP 2 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR CHIEF, BUREAU OF YARDS AND DOCKS,
DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

SUBJECT: SAMOS (SENTRY) Program Impact Report

Reference your memorandum C-630, dated 19 August 1959, citing the existing strike at the Imperial Electric Company of Akron, Ohio, and its possible influence on the construction schedule for launch complex number one at Pt. Arguello, California.

Launch complex number one at Pt. Arguello is being constructed specifically for the SAMOS (SENTRY) Program. The SAMOS Program objective is to provide, at the earliest possible date, continuous visual, electronic, and other coverage of the USSR and satellite nations for surveillance purposes. This program has the highest national priority, and as indicated in the DOD Master Urgency List, has a BB.01 priority. The construction schedule requires that complex number one be completed and all systems checked out by March 1960 in order to be available for the first SAMOS launch in April 1960. It is essential that every effort be made to meet this schedule in order to acquire intelligence data as early as possible.

An investigation has been made concerning the specific use of the particular motors and generator sets manufactured by the Imperial Electric Company and the influence of any delivery delay to the Pt. Arguello launch complex. It has been determined that these motors and generators are critical components of the service towers at the launch pads of complex number one and that any delay in delivery beyond 1 September 1959, will create day-for-day slippage in facility availability. It is imperative that this slippage be held to a minimum so that the service towers can be turned over to system contractors as soon as possible in order that tower/vehicle compatibility tests can be accomplished. Facility checkout vehicles must be installed and necessary tests completed prior to installation of flight vehicles.

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It should be noted that a delay already has been encountered because of periodic evacuation of construction workers due to [REDACTED] launches which are fired over the site of launch complex nuclear one. Some delay has also been encountered due to formerly unresolved problems between Air Force and Navy concerning communications installations. This problem is now understood to be resolved. Delay due to non-delivery of the critical motors and generators, in addition to that already encountered, would create an extremely serious situation with respect to meeting the April date for first [ATLAS] launch. The lack of these motors and generators represents the only known and serious equipment shortage which exists for the [ATLAS] launch complex.

In view of the above, it is requested that the Chief of Naval Material take all possible steps including the use of naval vehicles, if necessary, to remove the motors and generators from the Imperial plant and deliver same as soon as possible to Pt. Arguello.

/s/ Roy W. Johnson

Roy W. Johnson
Director

cc: Chief of Naval Material
AFDAT
AFCCM

FROM: (Activity transmitting document)

ORD (ARPA)

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1 cy of Memo for Chief, Bureau of Yards & Docks, Dept of the Navy, subj: SAMOS
    (SECRET) Program Impact Report, 2 pgs, 1 cc

TO:

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