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HEADQUARTERS

AIR FORCE BALLISTIC MISSILE DIVISION (ARDC)
UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

Air Force Unit Post Office, Los Angeles 45, California



REPLY TO
ATTN OF: WDZP

SUBJECT: Transmittal of Discoverer, SAMOS and MIDAS
Development Plans

JAN 30 1960

TO: Hq USAF (AFDAT)
Wash 25, D. C.

1. Transmitted under separate cover are five copies each of the following documents:

- a. Discoverer Development Plan dated 15 January 1960.
- b. SAMOS Development Plan dated 15 January 1960.
- c. SAMOS Development/Operational Annex dated 15 January 1960.
- d. MIDAS Development Plan dated 15 January 1960.
- e. MIDAS Development/Operational Annex dated 15 January 1969.

2. These plans have been prepared in response to Hq USAF guidance (AFDAT messages 98212 and 61415) resulting from the presentation of these programs to Hq USAF during 14-16 December 1959.

3. The Discoverer Development Plan. This plan provides for a program of 29 flight vehicles and in accordance with the guidance continues the Discoverer program essentially as previously planned. To accomplish this it has been necessary to use the authorized funding flexibility and allocate to the Discoverer program, ~~_____~~ It is recommended that the Discoverer Development Plan and fund allocation be approved.

4. In the case of SAMOS and MIDAS, certain minimum essential additions in excess of the funding ceilings are recommended for consideration and approval.

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... and maintains a level of funding with a minimum essential research and development program. The SAMOS program has been allocated within the fund limitations of \$160.0 millions in FY 1960 and \$199.9 millions in FY 1961.

b. SAMOS Development/Operational Annex. This annex to the development plan has been prepared to define the necessary funding and describe the items of work, equipments, and additional facilities necessary to provide a timely base for a future operational program. The annex is the basis for the transition from a research and development environment into an operational configuration.

c. It is recommended:

(1) That the SAMOS Development Plan and funding allocations be approved.

(2) That the SAMOS Development/Operational Annex be approved as presented. The additions to the SAMOS Program contained in this annex will save valuable time and decrease the overall program costs over the long term.

5. a. MIDAS Development Plan. This plan has been funded within the funds remaining following the funding of Discoverer and the SAMOS minimum essential R&D plan. The amounts remaining for MIDAS are \$31.1 millions in FY 60 and \$41.0 millions in FY 61. The research and development objective and philosophy have remained unchanged in the plan. However, the impact of this funding rate extends the time schedule of accomplishment of various items of work drastically. This delay of a logical and feasible accomplishment of MIDAS development tasks has required adding to the MIDAS plan a special section (Tab 6, Section I). This section describes those additional R&D tasks and the costs of same (FY 60, \$20.6 millions and FY 61, \$65.8 millions) which will permit an increase in the level of effort to raise the program to a minimum essential R&D program. Any program which is less than a minimum essential R&D program will necessarily sacrifice valuable time, reduce efficiency and ultimately add to the overall program costs.


b. MIDAS Development/Operational Annex. This annex defines the funding and describes the items of work, equipments and additional facilities, which when added to the minimum essential R&D program provides a logical base from which a

follow-on operational program could be projected. It must be pointed out that consideration should only be given to the MIDAS Development/Operational Annex following an approval of the MIDAS minimum essential R&D program.

c. It is recommended:

(1) That the MIDAS Development Plan, including the additional R&D tasks and associated funding, be approved to permit the continuation of MIDAS at a minimum essential R&D level of effort.

(2) That the MIDAS Development/Operational Annex be approved to insure the timely completion of the essential tasks necessary to provide a basis for a future operational program.


O. J. RITLAND
MAJOR GENERAL, USAF
COMMANDER

Copies to:
ARDC (RDRRB)