

DISPOSITION FORM

SECURITY CLASSIFICATION (If any)

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FILE NO:

SUBJECT

(U) Security Classification of Names and Numbers Used to Designate WS 117-L, ARS

TO

See Distribution

FROM

WDS

DATE

3 April 56

COMMENT NO. 1

1. Recently there have been instances when classified nomenclature has been used, inadvertently, when reference was made to the Advanced Reconnaissance System, WS 117-L, in unclassified discussions. To prevent further occurrences of this sort, there is outlined below an explanation of the various numbers and nicknames which have been assigned to the Air Force's satellite reconnaissance program. In addition, the standard, unclassified title for future reference is stated. (Secret)

2. The following numbers and nicknames have been assigned to programs which preceded WS 117-L:

- a. Project Feedback - the original, unclassified nickname for the RAND Corporation's satellite feasibility studies, which were conducted from 1946 to early 1954. (Secret)
- b. MX-2226 - an unclassified number assigned by WADC in early 1954 to identify the Air Force's research and development program based on Project Feedback. (Uncl)
- c. Project 1115 - Advanced Reconnaissance System the project number and unclassified title assigned in early 1954 to the preliminary design studies for WS 117-L. (Uncl)
- d. Pied Piper - the unclassified nickname for Project 1115 (Uncl)

3. The official Air Force designation for the development of a weapon system which will utilize a satellite platform for a reconnaissance vehicle is WS 117-L, Advanced Reconnaissance System. The nickname Pied Piper is still applicable. (Secret)

4. Since earlier nicknames and numbers have been or will be cancelled, it is desired that WS 117-L, Advanced Reconnaissance System, be the standard term used for unclassified reference to the program in all communications. (Uncl)

5. Because of obvious international political ramifications, the existence of a satellite reconnaissance vehicle program within the AF, was classified Secret in Air Force System Requirement No. 5, 29 November 1954. Therefore, any

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reference to WS 117-L, ARS, as a satellite reconnaissance vehicle must be classified Secret. It is suggested that WDD and R-W personnel form the habit of referring to this program as ARS in unclassified communications or discussions. (Secret)

6. Upon award of a development contract, a master security classification guide for WS 117-L will be prepared and disseminated. (Uac1) ✓

7. This DF has been coordinated with WDTR.

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