

Shum.

21 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversation Between Colonel Norton, WDID, and Colonel Eichel, AFMTC, Regarding the 117L Program

1. Colonel Eichel requested an answer on the 117L situation. Colonel Norton couldn't give him a definite answer because he didn't know what information Colonel Terhune had received.

2. Colonel Eichel has received a TWX from General Landon and General *Vates* asking why the design criteria for the 117L items have not been received. The '58 MCP budget includes a couple of assembly buildings, a block house and coupler pads. The TWX asked that AFMTC coordinate on the drawings but AFMTC doesn't feel that they can due to the fact that they have not seen the specified plans. Colonel Eichel asked the reason for the "rush". Colonel Norton gave the reason that the design criteria had to be included before any funds would be approved. He stated that this particular item was under study and that the work might go to AFMTC, they might get most of it and the rest would be done elsewhere, or the work might given entirely to some other place. Colonel Order is away at the present time but he has had this particular situation under study and there is a possibility that General Schriever will make a decision on it the last of next week. When a decision has been reached, Colonel Norton indicated this headquarters will specify how much and where they want it. Colonel Norton stated that the detailed criteria will have to be worked over and he doubts that the people in Hqs USAF have had a resume of what AFMTC has done to date. He believed that a meeting would have to be scheduled to get together with all parties concerned either at WDD or at AFMTC, but nothing can be done until week after next. He stated that he realized this is an unsatisfactory situation.

3. Colonel Eichel stated that General Landon had directed that the information be in by Monday. Colonel Norton suggested that the criteria be made to fit the ⁶⁵5, due to the fact that there are two, ^{and} and the criteria has already been drawn up. Colonel Eichel didn't think this would work because if use was made of what had already been drawn up there wouldn't enough money to cover everything, and a decision must be made as to whether they would need either two. Colonel Norton stated that this should match the other right now, but that the money would be needed regardless of how many would be needed. He directed that Colonel Eichel tell the people to submit the criteria and if they need any more WDD will back them up. Colonel Eichel indicated that if they don't get the criteria there will be a shortage of \$4 million dollars. Colonel Norton requested that he call back as soon as he had any more information.

4. Colonel Norton advised that Colonel Terhune has finished a memorandum for the record on their visit to AFMTC this week and is forwarding a copy of it to Colonel Eichel today. He (Col Norton) is also going to write a note to General Yates from General Schriever suggesting a little surveillance in the AIO area, since it might be necessary. In the meantime Colonel Eichel is to let Colonel Norton know anytime something slips. Colonel Eichel continues to call WDD and has kept Colonel Terhune and Colonel Jacobson up-to-date on everything. Colonel Norton wants to be advised if anything goes wrong because this is an extremely critical time. Tony called this date to see if they can get help from BMD and Colonel Eichel asked that Colonel Norton would request help from BMD for them also. Colonel Norton agreed, and advised Colonel Eichel to identify everything.