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 POINT MESSAGEFORM

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SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

FROM:

OSAF

TO:

SAMSO LOS ANGELES, CALIF

SAFSL (3)

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AUGUST 1968.

For Gen Bleymaier from Gen Stewart. The issuance of RFPs for the MOL fuel cell will probably generate queries from news media, particularly the trade press. Queries received by SAMSO and McDonnell Douglas information offices may be answered within the context of the following general information:

Quote: A combination of factors led to the decision to recompute the MOL fuel cell contract. Fairly significant technical changes in the Bacon type fuel cell, which Pratt and Whitney has been adapting for MOL, would have to be made to meet a gradual increase in MOL orbital power requirements; also, advancements in fuel cell technology in the past few years now offer greatly

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	Ralph J. Ford Colonel, USAF Chief, Program and Policies	50946		TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE
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improved cells -- specifically, capillary matrix type fuel cells. After an intensive review of the present fuel cell program by McDonnell Douglas and the Air Force, it was decided that a capillary matrix type cell offers many advantages over the Bacon type cell in meeting the current more precisely defined MOL power requirements. It was also determined that there was sufficient time to make such a change if desired without compromising other aspects of the MOL Program.

Since there are several qualified suppliers besides Pratt and Whitney, it was decided that a competition would be the fairest approach to the overall aerospace industry, and would provide a means of insuring that the Government acquires the best possible product at the most competitive price. McDonnell Douglas will solicit proposals from all competent fuel cell sources including Pratt and Whitney. The results of the competition will be reviewed and approved by the

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Air Force prior to the award of any new contract.

In the interim, the present level of work at Pratt and Whitney will be reduced somewhat, and work will continue only in those areas common to either an improved Bacon fuel cell or a capillary matrix fuel cell. Unquote.

In addition, McDonnell Douglas spokesman may respond, as you deem appropriate, to questions regarding the current contract with Pratt and Whitney; i.e., date awarded and amount. Information contained in the unclassified RFP may also be used to respond to specific questions.

However, in accordance with MOL Program policy, press coverage should not be solicited. Information should be provided only in response to query and legitimate public interest. It should be made completely clear to both SAMSO and to McDonnell Douglas that they will make no releases without at least specific MOL Systems Office approval. Use your own discretion as to

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whether or not Washington clearance is needed. GP-1.

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