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25 March 1959

Director, Satellite Systems
ATTN: WDWNF

The Honorable Malcolm A. MacIntyre
Under Secretary of the Air Force
Washington 25, D. C.

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DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Dear Mr. MacIntyre:

Mr. Johnson's memo to you, subject: "Recovery Plan for DISCOVERER," dated 13 February 1959, requested that Mr. Johnson be informed on status, reliability, future plans for surface recovery support backup, and ARPA assistance required. AFCCM TWX 57013 requested the Ballistic Missile Division to prepare such a briefing for delivery on 10 March.

The briefing conducted for Mr. Johnson on 10 March as briefly outlined to Mr. Horner, Asst Secretary of the Air Force (R&D), on the same day covered the following aspects of the DISCOVERER Recovery System:

Development requirements of the Recovery System.

Development philosophy and restrictions.

System description and operation.

Component and System Test and test results.

An assessment of system reliability.

Further development, testing and objectives.

Copies of Lockheed Missiles and Space Division documents outlining the test program, Operations Plan, and System Analysis were left with General McCorkle's people for their retention and use.

No objections or changes to the program as presented by AFBMD were suggested by ARPA members. ARPA approval of the program as outlined is assumed.

Prior to the AFBMD briefing to ARPA, the Navy presented their proposal to modify two CV-2 vessels to provide surface support of the

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DISCOVERER Recovery Program. The modifications proposed included the installation of large radars, helicopter platforms, and other appurtenances. The following conclusions were reached after discussion:

The installation of the large radars and Control Center was not a DISCOVERER requirement since passive detection of the descending capsule and control of the Recovery Force was a function of the RC-121's.

The Pacific Missile Range (PMR) would attempt to provide operating costs for the two ships from FY 60 PMR funds.

Chief, Naval Operations representatives would investigate the availability of the helicopters from Navy resources.

The proposal as presented was a Navy initiated proposal to replace the destroyer support of DISCOVERER.

AFBMD positions stated during the discussions were as follows:

The current recovery support of 3 destroyers is adequate. AFBMD expects to reduce the number required to two or one after experience is gained in the recovery system.

The Navy (PMR) proposal of two CV-2 vessels with helicopter platforms is an acceptable substitute for the destroyer support.

The large search radars are not required for the DISCOVERER Program.

It is suggested that the briefing of 10 March, outlined above, completely fulfills the desires stated by Mr. Johnson in his 13 February memo to you.

Sincerely yours,

*Cy to: AF CGM
ARDC*
Cy Furnished: Mr. Horner

Signed

B. A. SCHRIEVER
Major General, USAF
Commander

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