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SUBJECT: Foreign Procurement, Dorian/EKC

TO: General Martin

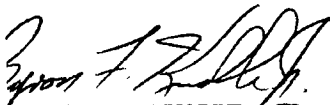
1. This evaluation is based on a study of EKC documents under the cover letter, Subject: Dorian Project, Foreign Origin Procurement, March 9, 1966, and personal conversations of my project engineer, Major R. F. Burke with the responsible EKC engineers.

2. There are three factors for consideration; schedule, equipment reliability and equipment capability. There are three possible contractors; Berthiez (French), Blanchard and Springfield Machine Tool Company. Of these three, the latter may be eliminated since they do not want the job and have elected not to bid.

3. Based on schedule, Berthiez offers 13 months while Blanchard offers 18 months delivery in a state that will require in-house modifications by EKC. Since we will have delivered glass blanks prior to the availability of either machine, the earlier Berthiez date is distinctly advantageous. (As an interim measure the existing Blanchard may be used to grind the solid test blanks). Therefore, on schedule alone, even if capability and reliability were equal, the Berthiez machine becomes mandatory.

4. Berthiez has built machines of this size with a capability to meet our required tolerances in the past. Neither Blanchard nor EKC have a great deal of confidence in their development of the new machine. (Blanchard)

5. Considering the critical schedule differences and what, at this time, appears to be an increased reliability or confidence in the Berthiez equipment, the undersigned concurs with EKC and recommends a sole source procurement from that company.


BYRON F. KNOLLE, JR.
Lt. Colonel, USAF
Deputy Director

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