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LMSD/558751

26 August 1960

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WEEKLY ASSESSMENT REPORT - WEEK ENDING AUGUST 26

SATELLITE SYSTEMS

Primary effort during this week has been expended on a short trip to Washington D. C. to discuss our Satellite Systems with Dr. Charyk and others. This is covered in the attached trip report.

Activities at Sunnyvale include:

- 1) The rescheduling of the first Samos flight to early October, the primary reason for which is an extensive interference survey of the bird to be sure that we do not have any cross-talk between instrumentation and functional control elements similar to that which caught up with us on Discoverer XII. This rescheduling, which slipped the flight approximately two weeks, has been fully coordinated with BMD and was probably desirable, although this may represent an overly conservative approach to the flight.
- 2) The Martin Titan-Agena engineering study proposal has been submitted and Col. Evans has agreed to fund the Titan-Agena B portion of the program, which is approximately as soon as our revised proposal for this part of the work is submitted. This will be done within the next week.
- 3) We still have not isolated the problem in the pitch control circuits which caused the perturbations in both launch and recovery of Discoverer XIV. Since our pad turn-around time keeps us from firing before September 13, we hope to have this fully understood by then.

POLARIS

Discussions on the Polaris were also quite fruitful during my recent trip, and are covered in the attached trip report. Since Reg had covered the NATO Polaris pretty thoroughly on the previous week and since the Navy

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has been sensitive on how much time we spend on NATO. I refrained from even mentioning the word. However, during the Scientific Advisory Board's guidance and control meeting here on Thursday of this week, Charlie Lauritsen asked me how we were coming on it and I told him most of the gory details. I promised to give him copies of the NATO brochures when they are published next week. Maybe he can help us.

MISCELLANEOUS

I have committed myself to go back to Boston next week for one day to talk with the summer study group on which Dali Kybal is serving, at his request. His problem is that there is too much ivory tower thinking in this study of how we should conduct inspection to prohibit or limit missile manufacturing in Russia. Apparently, several members have latched onto the idea that certain special materials or equipment could be monitored with very few people and that by monitoring these items you could control all missile production. Dali is certain that a country which wished to violate an agreement could invent around such devices and proceed with armament. Since they also mention Polaris about every third breath, I may take Stan Burriss with me, as it would not hurt to have him exposed to the Boston science complex. They are about to suggest agreements which would affect Polaris production and deployment. L. T. E. Thompson, incidently, is very worried about this possibility.

While I am in Boston, I intend to have dinner with Dick Leghorn and several members of the Killian-Land group in order to discuss several items in which they have an interest. Since Reg has a commitment back East on Thursday and Friday, I will return by Wednesday noon in order to provide the proper ballast for the organization while he is away.

W. M. HAWKINS

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