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Proj 2108

9 SEP 1957

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Communications

SUBJECT: Semi-Automatic Agent Communications Set,
AS-3 (Project 2108)

REFERENCE: Memorandum for Chairman, DD/P Materiel Board
through Chief, WE Division from D/CO, dated
30 July 1957, subject: Establishment of Priority
for Development and Production of Semi-Automatic
Agent Communications Set AS-3 (Project 2108)

1. The development of an agent communications set as described in Project 2108 will fulfill a major operational deficiency of the Clandestine Services. The DD/P Materiel Board agrees that such development should carry a high priority. The availability of production models of such a system by December 1958 is highly desirable provided that such early delivery is not at the sacrifice of deliberate and thorough engineering and operational testing of prototype or pre-production models of the completed system.

2. The Materiel Board cannot establish numerical requirements for initial procurement until such time as sufficient testing of prototype equipment has been conducted to determine the operational suitability of the system. However, in order to assist the Office of Communications establish the magnitude of probable use should the set prove operationally suitable, the Board Secretariat has polled the Area Divisions for their estimates. The results of this survey are attached. It was the understanding of all Divisions that such estimates were for planning purposes and would not constitute a firm requirement or commitment.

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Thomas H. Karamessines
Chairman
DD/P Materiel Board

Attachment:
Estimate of Area Division Requirements
for Agent Commo Set AS-3

DOC 03	REV DATE 12 MAR 1958	BY 018373
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2. RDB JJK
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Chairman, DD/P Materiel Board

17 September 1957

Director of Communications

1-2 Do we have copy of ref with estimate? JJK

Agent Communications System AS-3

REF: Memorandum for the D/CO from the Chairman, DD/P Materiel Board, dated 9 September 1957, Same Subject

1. The estimates set forth in the attachment to the reference have been noted and will be used at the appropriate time in discussions with the contractor.
2. It occurs to me that this is a good opportunity to provide a brief report on the AS-3 situation since a number of factors have developed which bear to varying degrees upon our objective.
3. The contractor's reply to our questions regarding a speed-up to meet the deadline of December 1958 was unsatisfactory to me since I considered the costs resulting from his proposal to be exorbitant. Upon being so advised, however, the contractor revised his ideas somewhat and has promised delivery of an engineering model toward the end of September and a prototype between 1 and 15 November. We will commence negotiations subsequent to the receipt and testing of the engineering model at which time we will request a proposal based upon the estimate furnished in the reference.
4. At about the same time it will be necessary to receive proposals for a companion receiver. Although the final decision has not been reached, it is very likely that the receiver selected will be a version of the transistorized TR-11 series. Cost estimates on this as well as the AS-3 will be furnished the Board as soon as they are firm.
5. You will note from the attached cables that the urgency of our requirement has been reduced somewhat since it is not planned now to demonstrate this equipment prior to May 1959. I consider this fortunate since this will afford us a greater period during which the production model can be operationally evaluated.

Who?

ORIGINATED BY: [redacted] - 17 Sept. '57
DIST: Original & 1 with 1 copy of each attachment Addressee
1 OC- [redacted]
1 OC-P (DD/P Mat. Bd.) H. H. McLELLAND
1 OC-P chrono

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- Attachment: (2)
1. DIR 33692 (GVT 85121)
 2. LCD 3158 (IN 47266)

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