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ADM-10.7

DD/S&T 2356-66

20 June 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Special Assistant to the DD/S&T

SUBJECT : Comments on Project Officers Handbook

REFERENCE : DD/S&T 2973-66

1. While there is a great deal to be said about the activities of ADP for contract information, the reference proposal is rather liberal in the accredits and capabilities given to ADP to answer all questions for all people. Specifically, it is not at all clear to this Office, possibly due to our own limitations, how the ADP system will permit the project officer and management to make more timely decisions. If the program must await the data derived from the ADP, the information gained can be no earlier than 60 days old; hence the program is well in trouble before the ADP system flags it. We would trust that management would rely on the project officer to maintain a day to day cognizance over the status of his program and raise flags long before the 60 days proffered by the ADP system.

2. We are not at all convinced that the inherent nature of the machine capability will provide a quick reaction response to a great variety of questions that will be helpful, meaningful, accurate, and substantive as far as "all levels of Agency management."

3. We do raise the question whether or not the ADP system will replace written records now maintained by the various offices or will it be merely a consolidated machine run for the DD/S&T.

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4. Really, the first question which comes to mind, particularly as far as OSP is concerned, is the applicability of the proposed system, true for NRO as well as DD/S&T Office of Logistics contracts. We also cannot help but foresee a tremendous delay in the handling of our contracts if the imposition is now placed upon us to forward our contracts first to the DD/S&T ADP Controller, then to the Procurement Management Officer, then to the DD/S&T Comptroller, thence to the Special Assistant for R&D, and finally to the Executive Officer, before delivery to OCS. While such a mechanism certainly insures a large consortium providing multitudinous "cracks" at the contract, it does not evidence the most streamline procedures envisioned.

5. We would trust, though possibly erroneously, that the project officer is more currently informed of his program than to rely on "flagging" by OCS when milestones of expenditures have deviated 15 per cent or more from schedule.

6. All in all, this Office remains convinced that it has a far firmer grasp of its programs underway than possibly can be satisfied by a tardy ADP run. We also are further alarmed by the delays and manpowers which the incorporation of this proposed system cannot help but invoke. Since this system will not help our efforts but rather tarry them, we can have no other but a negative approach.

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Acting Director
Office of Special Projects

cc: EO/DD/S&T

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