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MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy for Field Activities, OSA

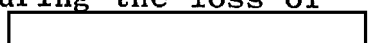
SUBJECT : Tape Recorders, Project IDEALIST

REFERENCE :  Minutes of Fifth IDEALIST Configuration Evaluation Board

1. Pursuant to the request of the ICE Board, stated in para 2 reference, the Communications and Field Electronics Division is exploring the possibility of purchasing recorders from any one of certain major manufacturers of this equipment, namely, Ampex and CEC. For the purpose of comparison, price and delivery-wise, Polorad has been asked to quote on a quantity of new Rega-Jane units. (Several of the original Rega-Janes are being modified by Astro Science to be used with System 21).

2. This memorandum also wishes to correct certain information presented to the Board during the informal discussion wherein recorder capability was presented.



3. With respect to para 2b above, if our efforts to replace these "B" units in System 6 had been an accomplished fact, it is quite possible that we would have had a complete history of the events which transpired during the loss of Article 372. It is pointed out that the  may continue to operate and perform its required function even though there has been a complete loss of the communication system equipment. Hence, had we been recording the continuous output of this device, we may possibly have been able to determine the exact train of events as they occurred.

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4. There have been sporadic efforts over a period of several years to replace these "B" units in System 6, but the most intense, continuing effort was started by this Division in about June of 1965. At that time Lockheed was asked to look at several recorders for possible use, and this Division examined the literature and many of the products of most of the recorder manufacturers in this country. However, a commercially available unit could not be found. Consequently, a verbal request was made to

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5. The current recorder status indicates that Astro Science was selected to perform the R&D effort for the new recorder. Delivery of the prototype is promised in about 10 months, with production to follow in 2 months. Some experience with the capability and quality of the product of this company suggests that this time period may be extended by many months before a useful product can be obtained. Ampex has indicated the desire to market a commercial item which we believe will meet the requirements of [redacted]. They have been requested to submit a quotation of price and delivery of the item. The written quotation is expected from Ampex by 11 March. In addition to a fixed price quotation, this company has been requested to submit on a CPIF basis with the view of assuring delivery of the first units in less than 6 months. CEC and Polorad have also been approached. [redacted]

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CEC is expected to submit a quotation by about 11 March.

6. The Board will be advised of the progress of this investigation.

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[redacted]  
Chief, Communications & Field  
Electronics Division  
OSA-DD/S&T

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