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NPIC/P&DS/D/6-1305
18 April 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, Office of Special Activities, DCS&T
THROUGH: Executive Director, NPIC
SUBJECT: Joint Procurement of Briefing Print
Enlarger by Other Agencies

1. NPIC is currently developing a Briefing Print Enlarger (BPE) under contract [redacted] this contract was negotiated by the Contracting Officer, Office of Special Activities, with [redacted] in May 1963. The "breadboard" BPE was completed in January 1966 at a cost of about [redacted] with the prototype phase beginning at that time at an estimated cost of [redacted]

2. The BPE is a fluid-gate enlarger designed to expose high quality prints up to 40 x 40 inches with continuously variable magnification from 3x to 60x. The prototype will be designed to produce both black and white and color prints. The product of the "breadboard" is considered to be acceptable by NPIC.

3. It has been determined through a series of briefings on the BPE presented throughout the community, and by demonstrations of its product, that this enlarger would fulfil immediate requirements now established by a number of agencies. The time factor of 16 months to build a prototype and a subsequent factor of an additional 18 months before delivery of a production model creates an excessive delay in fulfilling the present outside requirements. Through the medium of the Committee on Photographic Exploitation (COPE), several agencies expressed the desire to purchase chinese copies of the prototype model of the BPE rather than to wait for production models; these agencies would provide the necessary FY 1966 funds for the purchases. The [redacted] was asked to quote a price for the BPE on the basis of producing four extra prototype models.

4. [redacted] proposed that four additional prototype model BPEs be fabricated, component by component, as each component of the original prototype is completed under Contract [redacted] at no loss of time to the original NPIC prototype schedule. Under this system, the additional four prototypes would cost about [redacted] each. The cost factor is most acceptable to the Navy and DIA, and they now propose to transfer FY 1966 funds to NPIC for joint procurement with the understanding that their

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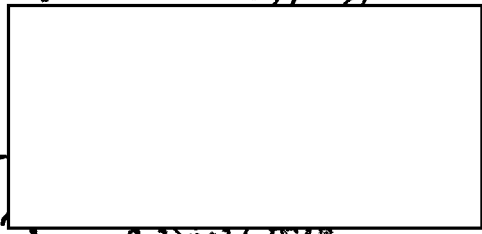
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prototype will at no time encompass changes in scope, but will be exact copies of the original NPIC prototype. The agencies concerned understand the increased risk in purchasing a prototype rather than to wait for production models. They have concluded that the present high quality of the "breadboard" product is sufficient to justify the timely purchase of prototypes.

5. Because of the security surrounding the development of the Briefing Print Enlarger, the method by which the development originally was contracted, the time frame in which the device is needed, and the readily available contracting system which would expedite delivery of the enlarger, it is requested that the Contracting Officer of OSA handle the contract for the additional prototypes under the special system now in effect. In addition, it is necessary that the security of the covert component involved at [redacted] be protected by avoiding open channels of contracting.

6. Contract monitoring and technical management of the four additional developments will be handled by NPIC Development Staff personnel now monitoring projects under contract



Colonel, USAF
Assistant for Plans and Development, NPIC

Distribution:

- Original and 1 - Addressee
- 1 - Exec. Dir./NPIC
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NPIC/P&DS/DB: [redacted] (18 April 1966)

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