



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

MEMORANDUM

February 29, 1980

TO:

[Redacted]

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Director of Communications
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

FROM:

~~Stuart E. Branch~~
Stuart E. Branch
Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Communications

SUBJECT: Mercury and Gateway (U)

REFERENCE: Your Memorandum (OC-M-80-110), February 19, 1980

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I have reviewed your memorandum of February 19, which proposes that our respective staffs get together to review requirements prior to our March meeting to discuss philosophy and concept of your Mercury and our Gateway projects. I am prepared to proceed in any manner that is most convenient for you. I did, however, think that we had, in our briefing of your staff on the Gateway project and other ongoing State communications programs on January 4, 1980, covered the requirements as best we know them.

With the exception of increased emphasis on the need for such data speed service to enhance our security posture overseas, there has been little else that has developed in the way of requirements. I am, however, as indicated above, quite prepared to have our staffs meet once again as you suggest. This may, in fact, be desirable since, judging from your memorandum, there seems to be some misunderstanding regarding the function of the Gateway. It is not, as you suggest, a terminal processor. Our communications terminal processor is the TERP system, of which, as you know, there are some 50 odd already installed overseas and 30 or so in the pipeline. The Gateway is, as I have mentioned in different discussions over the past year or so and covered in our briefing of January 4, a concentrator, the function of which is to provide an interface

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RDS - 2/29/2000 - Branch, S. E.

State Dept. review completed

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between the various communicating terminals currently in use (or envisioned) by the foreign affairs agencies represented overseas and the communications circuitry network.

Clearly, we must continue our efforts to avoid costs. In this regard, you should know that we do plan to bring up high-speed commercial leased circuits to a number of overseas locations to satisfy the foreign affairs agencies' requirements mentioned earlier. As we understand your Mercury program, you plan on using U.S. Government-owned facilities as the primary transmission media. To the degree you have any requirements for leased circuits, we would be pleased to include them in our plans.

Our interest is, of course, to make maximum use of a single high-speed circuit by sharing the bandwidth to meet numerous requirements. This will require a Gateway but will eliminate the expensive, recurring annual costs associated with dedicated circuits to meet each separate requirement. Further, it provides a single management and interface with the IRC's and local PTT's, as well as enabling preemption of these circuits in the event of a crisis situation.

The increased circuit capacity and cost avoidance, which will be realized with the Gateway, make this a very high priority program in our office.

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