

ODP's Memo on Proposed
Delay in Selection (29 Jul)

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ROUTING AND RECORD SHEET

SUBJECT: (Optional)

Proposed Delay in Selection of Agency Standard Word Processor

FROM: D/ODP/DDA 2-D-00 HQS. <input type="checkbox"/>	EXTENSION	NO. ODP 81-991
		DATE 29 July 1981

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TO: (Officer designation, room number, and building)	DATE		OFFICER'S INITIALS	COMMENTS (Number each comment to show from whom to whom. Draw a line across column after each comment.)
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2. D/OL, 2G20B <input type="checkbox"/>	8/4/81			
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ODP 81-991
29 JUL 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Logistics

VIA: Deputy Director for Administration

FROM: Bruce T. Johnson
Director of Data Processing

SUBJECT: Proposed Delay in Selection of Agency Standard
Word Processor [redacted]

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REFERENCE: Your memo to IMS/DO dtd 24 July, subject: Sole-
Source Procurement of Automation Equipment for
Project CRAFT [redacted]

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1. The Office of Data Processing does not concur in reference proposal to delay the selection and acquisition of an Agency standard word processor or family of word processors. It is, in our view, extremely important to achieve a standard for use in the Headquarters area, and with each passing month our opportunities to make such a standard meaningful diminish as more and more offices are equipped with a variety of devices selected to meet specific needs. Weaning satisfied users away from familiar equipment and convincing them to adopt the new standard unit instead will be difficult at best, and we are anxious to keep the number of such conversions to a minimum. Pent-up demand for word processing equipment is so high that we can be certain of a steady stream of non-standard devices coming in to CIA during the seven months of waiting which would be imposed by the course of action proposed in reference. In addition, we hope to obtain favorable pricing on the standard equipment, and it behooves us to reduce both the number and the length of leases entered into at list prices, without benefit of competitive pricing. [redacted]

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2. We know enough right now to include CRAFT requirements in our RFP for word processors, and we have offered to revise the RFP accordingly. Such a step would mean a delay in getting test units out to field stations, however, and IMS has made it clear that such delay is unacceptable. To defer definition of our word processing equipment until we have the results of the field tests of Wang equipment would delay selection of a standard until 1983. Such a delay, from ODP's point of view, is just as unacceptable. [redacted]

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3. If procurement of a common word processor for Headquarters and field use is vital, perhaps we should once again consider the sole source procurement of Wang equipment. We know it possesses most if not all of the desired characteristics and it has already been selected, through competitive procurement, by the Department of State. It is also used by a number of S&T contractors, and there are plans to install Wang equipment in the [redacted] building so OD&E can communicate with remote government and contractor installations already using Wang. A sole source procurement may have much to commend it, and politically it should be defensible as an effort to achieve commonality with the

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4. Barring a decision in favor of sole source procurement of Wang equipment and absent an agreement by the DDO to add its CRAFT requirements to the RFP currently being developed, ODP sees no practical way to achieve the complete commonality proposed in the reference. A standard, selected as soon as possible, covering the general word processing requirements of all Agency components in the Headquarters area including the DDO, would not be an insignificant achievement. ODP, which is already encountering considerable evidence of unease about possible dislocations brought about by exchanges of equipment, would strongly prefer to adhere to the established timetable and gain the benefits of earliest possible deployment of a Headquarters-area standard word processor.

[redacted] 25X1

Bruce T. Johnson

cc: C/IMS/DDO

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