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DECLASSIFIED IN FULL
Authority: EO 13526
Chief, Records & Declass Div, WHS
Date: FEB 26 2014

COVERING BRIEF

Office of the Secretary of Defense SU.S.C. 8552
Chief, RDD, ESD, WHS +
Date: 26 FEB 2014 Authority: EO 13526
Declassify: X Deny in Full: _____
Declassify in Part: _____
Reason: SU.S.C. 8552 (b)(6)
MDR: 13-M-4622

TO: DIRECTOR, DEFENSE RESEARCH AND ENGINEERING

FROM: DEPUTY DIRECTOR, STRATEGIC AND SPACE SYSTEMS

PROBLEM: (U) To respond to Dr. Low's letter to you dated October 2, 1975 (Tab B), requesting that DoD reimburse NASA for additional expenses incurred in meeting DoD data handling requirements on GEOS-3.

DISCUSSION: (U) When NASA and DoD agreed on the Mission Operation, Data Acquisition and Data Distribution Plan for GEOS-3 it was clearly understood that DoD would reimburse NASA for additive costs in implementation. NASA is asking for \$893K in FY 1976, \$491K in FY 77, and \$756K in FY 1977, which totals \$2,140K.

(C) DMA has examined these charges. The charges appear valid with two possible exceptions. First, included in the \$2,140K figure is \$130K for a new computer at Wallops Island. This computer is probably needed because of the DoD imposed work load; however, NASA will benefit for many years from this investment and should perhaps pay for it. Second, \$500K is needed to keep the NASA principal investigators on line for an additional 6 months, since to meet DoD needs NASA says the GEOS-3 will be operated on orbit for 18 months rather than 12 months as originally planned. Realistically, we know that NASA will keep the satellite operating as long as it can produce useful data, which might be for 3 years. Nevertheless, it is doubtful that we could convince NASA that they should pay for these costs.

(U) In view of the importance which DoD attaches to the radar altimetry data and the cooperation which NASA has displayed in implementing the Mission Operation, Data Acquisition and Data Distribution Plan for GEOS-3, we should not haggle too much over price.

IMPLEMENTATION: (C) That we work with the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) to get \$2.0M included in the FY 1977 budget so that NASA may be reimbursed. NASA has already accepted the fact that we have no practical way of reimbursing them before FY 1977. A letter to NASA stating this intent has been prepared for your signature (Tab A).

RECOMMENDATION: (U) That you sign Tab A.

CONCURRENCE: (U) ASD (C) _____

18 Nov 75
OAD (S&AS) X-57036

5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(6)

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Authority: 12958
Date: 2/10/2000
Chief, Declass Br, Dir & Rec, WHS

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