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3 March 67

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Recommendations Concerning Program

1. Paragraph 7 of this memorandum contains two recommendations submitted for your approval.

2. The program has been concerned with the development of techniques for the remote guidance of animals carrying payloads of interest. Such payloads might include

Guidance is effected by electrical stimulation of pleasure, punishment or motor centers in the brain through. The program has been in existence for about five years and has involved the expenditure of about

3. In view of a rather complex past, a resume of the history of this effort is in order. and associates demonstrated a guided rat 1957. Mr.

became aware of this work through In July, 1958 a contract was arranged from through the to support further work in this area. This program was terminated at the insistence of the in March, 1959. Prior to that time wire-guided rats (i.e., stimulating electrical current carried to electrodes by wires), which could run obstacle courses, and a guided donkey was achieved. Films of these animals in action are on file continued the program at a series of contractor facilities on the west coast from May, 1959 to June, 1962. By the latter date, self-stimulating dogs and cats had been prepared.

took over the program in August 1961.

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4. Since June, 1962, efforts have been concentrated on an attempt to develop a system consisting of a wireless guided rat with a self-contained payload. Guidance in this case is under the direction of a stationary operator, hence the system is limited to line of sight range. Basic and peripheral research have been minimized during this phase. Rats were chosen for emphasis over other possible carriers since most research had been performed on those animals, supply and maintenance were easy and inexpensive, and the system would hopefully provide capability.

5. The present status of the rat system was demonstrated on 12 June 1963 to representatives. The maximum range achieved, was obviously inadequate. Although this range could readily be increased by the use of an external, detachable payload, subsequent discussion among the representatives present indicated that the system possessed inherent disadvantages which would mitigate against its use, even if improved. For example, the line of sight limitation of the guidance system makes successful placement difficult, if not impossible.

6. The use of guided animals is still a potentially attractive concept. Applications are readily apparent. The use of would introduce another degree of freedom with obvious advantages but equally obvious complexities. Large indigenous animals, such as bears, yaks, etc. are capable of carrying heavy payloads over great distances under adverse climatic conditions and could be guided by Large animals have other distinct advantages. Trained, as opposed to guided, animals might also be considered. However, it appears the development of such systems would be arduous and expensive. Certain basic research is obviously prerequisite. Further effort on such systems would detract from its principal mission and tax already limited manpower and resources.

7. For the above reasons, I recommend an orderly termination of the [redacted] program. This would involve the preparation of a detailed final report summarizing the present state of the art. Recent discussions between representatives of [redacted] and the [redacted] indicate that there is sufficient interest [redacted] to warrant some continuing effort, particularly in the areas of more basic and fundamental research regarding the phenomenon of brain stimulation as a method of animal guidance as well as in animal training to achieve similar goals. It is therefore recommended that the [redacted] take whatever steps are necessary to begin a program in basic research related to animal guidance and training and that [redacted] be kept informed of future progress in the field.

(signed)

The recommendations contained in paragraph 7 are approved:

Date 8 July 1953