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6.2(d)

3.3(h)(2)

ORD 2690-64
3 December 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief/Maritime Branch/SOD

SUBJECT: Extension of Project OXYGAS

1. Attached are two copies of a proposed follow-on for Project OXYGAS which reflects the views of individuals in ORD and [redacted] from your Office. This proposal, if supported, will begin in January and will continue for six months. Both the tasks and the cost estimate are subject to negotiation which, for budgetary reasons, will have to be completed by the end of December. Before holding further discussions with the contractor, I would like to receive your endorsement and comments on the following.

a. Assuming that the contractor successfully completes the current technical feasibility study, will Maritime Branch/SOD still be interested in the program? Will Maritime Branch/SOD undertake operational feasibility, assuming successful completion of this second phase?

b. We would like to have you submit tasks of more direct operational interest to Maritime Branch/SOD which might be added to or substituted for those listed in the attached proposal. You will note that the system design study is incorporated in this proposal. I believe you were interested in sea launch and recovery and air transportation of the animals. In the light of our earlier discussions, I will be happy to add these tasks if Maritime Branch/SOD will provide the necessary support to carry them out. Specifically, this may include air transportation, a chase boat as listed in cost estimate item 3.1, and the use of a larger vessel similar to one which might be used in a future operational situation. Our Office is reluctant to purchase this equipment as we would have no further use for it in the foreseeable future.

SECRET

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c. As in the past, we request active participation by Maritime Branch/SOD in the monitoring of this study and would like to have an appropriate member of your staff survey [redacted] as a potential operational testing site.

d. Certain types of special equipment (u/w telephones, homing devices, etc.) designed primarily for your operations may be required during the course of this study which would require additional funds. This may amount to perhaps 10-12 K during the six-month period. Your financial support would be appreciated if funds are available to you, assuming we mutually agree that these equipments are essential to the study.

2. I would like to reinforce my comment during our previous meeting with respect to our intentions in this project. We will continue to support the research and technical aspects with manpower and funds through FY'65. If this project proves to be promising, the program will become increasingly operational. We should then expect to phase out our support except in technical areas. I cannot foresee exactly where the cutoff point will be but feel we can work this out on a mutually satisfactory basis as the program developes.

[redacted]

STEPHEN L. ALDRICH, M. D.
Deputy Assistant Director
Office of Research and Development

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