

21 July 1960

COMMENTS: Contract No. XG-2263/0/17576

1. The technical report prepared under this contract was received on 8 June 1960.

2. The overall performance of the contractor was satisfactory.

3. [] has stated that his study was severely handicapped because of security restrictions. This observation is quite accurate. However, he specifically notes in his study that his recommendation not to procure a large scale computer at this time was not hampered by security restrictions. In view of the fact that the primary objective of his study was computer utilization, the element of timeliness would appear to be the only answer to an apparent contradiction which the two positions suggest. Regardless of the logic exercised by the contractor in concluding that a large scale computer should not be procured at this time, the position taken is acceptable to the contracting office insofar as the calculation aspect of a large scale computer is concerned. By far the greater issue to the contracting office centers upon the utilization of a computer(s) and ancillary equipment for data handling purposes. No real assistance on this problem was provided through this study.

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4. It appears to the contracting office that [] personal background, experience, and depth of understanding of general computer application is somewhat less than originally understood as evidenced in his grasp and analysis of complex computer inter-relationships. This, coupled with security restrictions, undoubtedly had an effect on the total value of his study to future planning purposes of the contracting office. Lack of access to operating areas, particularly those concerned with information processing, plus the fact that the contractor performed most of his work at [] without the benefit of close guidance and monitorship by the contracting office were contributing factors operating to the detriment of a comprehensive and knowledgeable study of our computer utilization problems.

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