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The Files - Project 2638

12 March 1959

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Conference Report -



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1. On 24 and 25 February 1959 a conference was held in [redacted] with representatives of [redacted] to discuss the status of the Automatic Digital Transmission System, AS-8. Present part-time or wholly were:

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2. This conference was held to advise the contractor that the AS-8 is not considered operational equipment. Primarily the AS-8 equipment is considered to be poorly constructed and unreliable in operation. Also, the equipment is too complex in design for the function it is to perform. This leads to difficulty in maintenance. A detailed account was related to the contractor's representatives pointing out the faults and troubles encountered during the engineering and operational evaluation periods. (See attached Memo to the Files) Specific recommendations as to the components of the system which require modification and/or correction were also made clear to [redacted]. The contractor was advised that we will not consider putting any more money into this project until the AS-8 equipment is reworked and made operationally reliable.

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3. Some effort was made by the contractor's representatives to explain the contractor's position in the AS-8 redesign program. They stated that the R+D phase of converting System II to the AS-8 System did not call for modifying and improving the reliability of all units. Their primary job was repackaging. It was pointed out to [redacted] that the unreliability of several of the System II units was known before the advent of the AS-8 and should have been corrected. [redacted] will study our recommendations and advise us as to what they plan to do to improve the AS-8 equipment.

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