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NPIC/TSSG/DED-1547-69  
25 March 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services & Support Group

THROUGH: Chief, Development & Engineering Division, TSSG

SUBJECT: Investigation of Replacement Pumps and Components for  
the Beacon Precision Enlarger

1. Since delivery by [ ] of the seven Beacon Precision Enlargers (BPE) to the various components who purchased them, several operational deficiencies have shown up; one of the main ones being the fluid pumps. [ ] is fully aware of this deficiency and has replaced several pumps and pump components (none on NPIC's enlarger).

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2. In a telephone conversation with [ ] on 18 March 1969, he suggested that an effort be made to investigate and experiment with other type pumps in order to find a more reliable replacement. He further suggested a 10K effort be funded under AL-14 for this investigation.

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3. Discussion of this matter with PSG/RGD revealed that their problem is not the pump per se, but is the fluid injection method at the film gate which causes bubbles which then remain between the film and gate glass. This, [ ] claims, requires three times longer than is necessary to produce a bubble-free exposure. Queries of other agencies verify that they too are plagued with this operational problem and would like to see it remedied.

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4. It is recommended that [ ] be tasked, under AL-14, to include the investigation of a better fluid injection system parallel with the replacement pump investigation and that additional time and cost estimates be obtained.

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[ ]

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