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NPIC/TSG/RED-184-70
27 July 1970

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Group, NPIC
SUBJECT : Comments on the Proposed Management Support Staff
REFERENCE : NPIC/TSG/RED/RSB-60-70 Re Subject Dated 2 July 1970

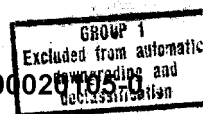
1. I have reviewed the Mission and Functions statements attached to the reference and am in general agreement with the need for and proposed functions of such a staff in TSG. However, I believe some of the proposed functions are not appropriate for the reasons cited in the following paragraphs.

2. There are several statements to the effect that the MSS will control requirements. I assume that this refers to production requirements which require contributions from some component of TSG--if so, the word "production" should be added. Certainly the R&D requirements are not appropriately controlled by this staff. At present the R&D requirements are "controlled" by the Group Chiefs and the Executive Director through the relatively efficient briefing mechanism. The only result of additional controls would be to make the planning and implementation of the R&D Program less efficient.

3. In several places "TSG" representation and participation on EXRAND is included as a function. This is most inappropriate. By definition, NPIC representation on EXRAND should be as closely related to the NPIC R&D program as possible. Since RED has been providing the EXRAND membership we have been able to realize and utilize very subtle but significant information and opportunities relating to the NPIC R&D program, which have been utilized to keep our program on target and provide efficient collaboration with the community in the development and procurement of exploitation equipment of mutual interest--such as the 1540 Light Tables and the various projects which are related to the exploitation of color photography. This process requires timely, close, and frequent contact with the NPIC R&D Program, RED management, and the project officers; such as is only available to a member of the RED organization. Placing the function elsewhere would not be even remotely competitive to our current situation.

4. In one of the MSS Branch functions the service of TSG ADP coordination is cited. On the surface this seems logical, but in light of the current situation, as well as the events leading up to it, I believe it would be a serious mistake to change the responsi-

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bility for this function from RED to MSS at any time in the foreseeable future. The coordination of the ADP services is a very complex and sensitive function. Until recently TSG has been all but excluded from any consideration in the conceptualization and design of any ADP support systems. However, since the Computer Applications Section has been established and operating in the Systems Research Branch, RED, we have been able to establish some rapport with AID and to openly take the initiative in conceptualizing ADP related exploitation techniques and equipment. In order to do this, it has been necessary for the Computer Applications Section to become familiar with the entire ADP situation at NPIC, headquarters, the community, and industry. In addition much time has been spent in establishing a working relationship with PSG/AID. Through these processes the TSG/RED/SRB/CAS has become the ADP coordinating body for TSG. To change the assignment of this function to MSS would jeopardize the working relationships that have been so carefully developed and require a repetition of this process. It is even questionable whether satisfactory ADP/R&D coordination could ever be accomplished through such an indirect relationship; therefore, I strongly recommend that the TSG ADP coordination function remain with our Computer Applications Section.


Chief, Research & Engineering Division, TSG

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