Subject: Group Leaders' Meeting - April 16, 1956

To: Group Leaders and Associate Group Leaders

From: C. W. Farr

Date: April 25, 1956

Agenda: 1. Time Cycle and Tracking Capacity
2. Boeing Visit
3. AF Training Movies

L. Time Cycle and Tracking Capacity

Benington introduced the subject of time cycle and tracking capacity. Preliminary study indicates that the present program and the present operating specifications require 15 to 20 seconds of no load cycle time (to perform "overhead" functions) and an additional 5 seconds per hundred tracks. A detailed study of cycle time vs. track load is in process. We are not in a crisis condition since the rough estimate of time might be pessimistic. General discussion centered around possible means of reducing the time cycle; three approaches were developed (a) increased memory capacity (hardware) (b) revised program (c) operational specification relief. Possibility of increasing the quick access memory has been discussed with IBM and Bottomly has already been transferred from Lexington to Poughkeepsie and placed in charge of memory development work. Forrester spoke in favor of early preliminary investigation of operational specification relief, pointing out that existing op specs were developed without detailed knowledge of their effect on programming load.
Decision was reached to suspend definite action for another week until Group 67 could investigate further; Farr was requested to maintain the subject on the permanent agenda until settled.

2. Boeing Visit

Israel announced the forthcoming visit of Boeing management people April 24.

Fallows stated that a meeting in Baltimore the preceding week, attended by LaMontagne, indicated that the Air Force is investigating selection of a weapons coordination contractor to be on the job by July 1956—possibly RAND. Jacobs reported no such indication from RAND. Dodd observed that RAND recognizes the disadvantages of adding another contractor and therefore RAND probably recognizes the advantage in assuming this responsibility.

3. AF Training Movies

O'Brien stated that AF training people have started taking training movies in XD-1; an extensive program is scheduled within the next several months.

CWF:ssm  C. W. Farr, Secretary