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Memorandum 6L-258

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Division 6 - Lincoln Laboratory  
Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Lexington 73, Massachusetts

CLASSIFICATION CHANGED TO:  
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Subject: Group Leaders' Meeting - April 30, 1956  
To: Group Leaders and Associate Group Leaders  
From: C. W. Farr  
Date: May 3, 1956  
Present: J. W. Forrester, R. R. Everett, J. A. Arnow  
H. D. Benington, D. R. Brown, W. J. Cauty  
C. L. Corderman, S. H. Dodd, R. S. Fallows  
C. W. Farr, D. R. Israel, J. F. Jacobs  
J. A. O'Brien, K. E. McVicar, B. E. Morriss, Jr.  
W. N. Papian, J. C. Proctor, E. S. Rich  
C. A. Zraket

- Agenda:
1. Time Cycle and Tracking Capacity
  2. IBM Request for Memory Drawings
  3. Meeting of Steering Committee for Group 63 Advanced Development
  4. Space
  5. Personnel
  6. Vacations

1. Time Cycle and Tracking Capacity

Arnow stated he is attempting to clarify his position on the basis of a 100 track system; a meeting is set up for May 1 to further this study.

2. IBM Request for Memory Drawings

Brown reported receipt of request from Bottomley for drawings of our 256 by 256 Core Memory. Everett has suggested that IBM investigate the feasibility of adding two additional memory units of present design to the FSQ-7 in case they are needed. The request for drawings is probably perfunctory. Brown will phone Bottomley.

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3. Meeting of Steering Committee for Group 63 Advanced Development

Brown secured approval of a meeting of the Steering Committee for Group 63 Advanced Development May 15 at 2 p.m.; discussion will include the Philco proposal for contract renewal and a review of TX-0 which will be on the threshold of operation.

4. Space

Proctor announced that agreement has been reached to allocate approximately 3,000 square feet of B basement space for Division 6. Design of air-conditioning and partitions has started; Proctor guessed a 2 month period required to make ready for occupancy.

Proctor stated that space for approximately seventeen persons is temporarily allocated to Division 6 in the Field Station. Discussion indicates that the Air Force is negotiating to purchase the Field Station.

Israel inquired concerning the possibility of using Field Station space in connection with RAND-Lincoln programmer training. Forrester advised that the space problem related to RAND training is part of the RAND space responsibility; the Field Station should be regarded as Lincoln buffer space.

Proctor announced that the Space Committee is starting a complete space survey; he appealed for attention to housekeeping.

5. Personnel

Proctor submitted for discussion the requisition received from Rich for a programmer for Group 64 to work on Utility Programs needed for MFC. Vanderburgh is the only programmer currently assigned to Group 64; his efforts are completely absorbed in connection with Test Programs.

Discussion ensued concerning the caliber person to be assigned to this work and in fact the desirability of providing an additional programmer assigned to MFC. Approval was granted for Rich to procure the best programmer attainable within a reasonable time period.

Benington introduced a related question concerning the Long Range Program for programmer manpower for XD-1, MFC and TX-0. The resulting discussion pointed up the fact that long range planning by Dodd is in process and will be available in June. A hiring policy which is aimed at upgrading our Staff results in overlooking some candidates who would probably turn out very well, on the other hand hiring of questionable candidates brings about the necessity for later dismissal of personnel and we have never been successful in persuading ourselves to let people go--although no dismissals have been refused practically none have been proposed--it was pointed out that the advantage of a ceiling is to apply pressure toward upgrading Staff; on the other hand a ceiling can be

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regarded as an indication of "no vacancies" for mediocre personnel without closing the door on outstanding candidates. Israel commented that he understood the philosophy and would refer to RAND candidates better suited for routine assignments.

Benington agreed to reintroduce his long range planning question at a later meeting.

6. Vacations

Everett requested Group Leaders and Associate Group Leaders to submit to Proctor plans for their own vacations in order that the Division Headquarters Office would be advised of the schedules of its top supervisory personnel.

CWF:ssm

*CW Ferr*

C. W. Ferr, Secretary

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