MEMORANDUM FOR (See Distribution)

SUBJECT: Cancellation of the Light Minuteman Re-entry Vehicle

1. Since the inception of the Minuteman program two re-entry vehicles have been planned, one weighing 350 lbs, the other 750 lbs. On 4 December Avco was directed to discontinue work on the light R/V. Effort will now be concentrated on the heavier 750 lb vehicle.

2. This decision was based on the following considerations:
   a. The lesser yield available from the light warhead.
   b. Lack of an adequate SAC requirement for the light R/V.
   c. Complications (and consequently, additional costs) introduced into the missile test program by different combinations of R/V and airframe.
   d. The cost savings possible on the Avco contract by the elimination of one design effort.

3. The warhead for this 750 lb vehicle is expected to weigh 500 lbs and probably will have an O.D. of about 12". Further information on estimates of length, e.g., location, and yield should be available during January, 1959. December 1959 is considered to be the latest acceptable date for the availability of external design release information on this warhead.

4. A C.C.N. to Avco's present Minuteman contract will be issued shortly to reflect the above changes. An additional paragraph will also be added to Para VII, "Supplemental Investigations", as follows:

   Para: 3.7.4 Sub-para 7.4

   Perform design studies of additional Minuteman re-entry vehicles as directed by AFRES. These studies shall be based on parameters supplied by AFRES/STL for each particular study.

5. Upon implementation of this C.C.N. Avco will be directed to continue parametric studies on the 350 lb. R/V on a low priority basis under the above provision.

   FORMERLY RESTRICTED DATA

   JOHNN A. DODGE, COL, USAF
   Chief, booster Division
   Sub-Systems Development

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