

NOTES FROM HARVEST MEETING 9 DEC 1958

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

Participants:	<u>MPRO-4</u>	<u>MPRO-03</u>	<u>ANEG-1</u>
	Maj. Costanza	Mr. Powers	Mr. Snyder
	Mr. Egelanian	Mr. Nickols	Mr. Rickerson
	Mr. Sumpter	Mr. O'Hara	

Subject of the meeting was to gather facts and opinions of the participants on the subject of a maintenance contract for HARVEST.

Maj. Costanza opened the meeting by stating MPRO-4's view of the maintenance problem. He cited the existing conditions regarding manpower and equipment. The original plan to phase out the ATLAS equipments before delivery of HARVEST has been effectively cancelled. Consequently, the maintenance billets that were to be released from ATLAS will not be released. The floor space which would have been available in the ATLAS area will not be available. He proposed the following alternative plans:

1. Ask for a contract with IBM which would extend the period of company maintenance from the six months now present in the PD to 18 months. The additional year to be used to train MPRO engineers in HARVEST and its maintenance. Under this plan only the skeleton force already assigned to HARVEST would continue on the project and no additional personnel would be assigned until after delivery of the equipment.
2. Ask for a contract with IBM which would extend the period of company maintenance for six months in addition to the six month period stated in the PD and phase in additional personnel into training for HARVEST as they become available between the present time and the delivery of the equipment.

Maj. Costanza stated that no decision was to be reached at the meeting but only the facts gathered to present to Mr. Kirby for his consideration in making the decision as to what plan we would follow.

Mr. Egelanian stated that to do the job of additional maintenance on HARVEST, 16 additional billets will be needed now. Part of the decision for a maintenance contract rests on the availability of these billets in addition to those already on hand.

Mr. Snyder was asked if he would commit the members of the ANEG task force to assist in the maintenance of the HARVEST after its delivery. Mr. Snyder replied that this was not possible because the men would not be available since they would be already committed to development of the FARMER system. He did agree to utilizing these men now to help in training the skeleton force already assigned to HARVEST anyway. Maj. Costanza answered with five reasons: (1) Cost-MPRO-4 can do it at a considerable saving in money, (2) Future development of the system will require intimate knowledge of the principles and circuits of HARVEST on MPRO-4's part, (3) in the event of expanded operations of NSA in a national emergency the agency could not depend on contract maintenance to meet these expanded operational needs, (4) it is vital to any technical organization like MPRO-4 to keep abreast of the state of the art in machine developments, (5) in light of the poor promotion opportunities available at present, the chance to learn and work on a system like HARVEST would make it easier to retain the services of some of the better engineers and technicians in the organization.

Mr. Powers and Mr. O'Hara pointed out that if the maintenance of HARVEST were contracted for on a continuing basis with IBM then modifications and circuit changes for increased reliability developed by the company as they developed commercial versions of this equipment would be installed in the Agency equipment. Also that money for maintenance contract such as this is more readily available than billets for increasing personnel strength in MPRO to do the job. Maj. Costanza questioned whether a contract on such terms as were proposed could be negotiated with IBM and whether the company would actually install new developments in a purchased machine.

Mr. Snyder then pointed out that this would have to be a separate contract since modification to the existing PD would be very difficult.