

Bell Comm

March 1, 1962

The Honorable James E. Webb, Administrator  
National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Webb:

Thank you for your letter of February 21, addressed to Mr. Kappel, asking the Bell System to furnish certain assistance to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in carrying out the Nation's program of manned space exploration.

We in the Bell System are keenly aware of the importance of the man in space program to our nation and of the heavy responsibilities which it places on you and your associates in NASA. Ours is an organization which is dedicated to the provision of nation-wide and world-wide communications. As you know, it is not our practice to seek work for the Government or for others which is outside the communications area. However, as citizens we hold to the belief that the national interest must come first in industry as well as in every other segment of our national community, and we have invariably accepted and embraced requests from the Government to undertake work in the national interest wherever our organization is especially qualified to be of assistance. For this reason, we will be glad to assist you in accomplishing the mission described in your letter.

As I am sure you will understand, the provision of the expert personnel which will be required will place a not insubstantial drain upon our organization. For this and other reasons, we believe we can do this job most effectively through the formation of a separate subsidiary corporation within the Bell System which will be in a position to draw on the talents and experience of this Company as well as Bell Telephone Laboratories, Western Electric Company and our other associated companies.

Further discussions between our respective organizations will, of course, be necessary to work out the details of

R E C O R D C O P Y

The Hon. James E. Webb - 2

these arrangements, and we will be ready to undertake these discussions at your convenience.

Mr. Kappel is away from the office. However, I have discussed this matter with him fully and he is in complete accord.

Sincerely,

E. J. McNEELY

President

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