

CONFIDENTIAL

FSD Headquarters
Rockville, Maryland
28 October 1960

Memorandum To: File

SUBJECT: STRETCH Personnel

In a recent trip to Poughkeepsie, I discussed the future plans of the DSD STRETCH group informally with a number of the managers there. The following seems to be an accurate description of the present situation there:

- (1) The STRETCH engineers and programmers are presently (and have been for some time) working very hard, long hours. Many of them are getting "burned out".
- (2) A few of the key members of the STRETCH team, particularly the planners, have already been reassigned to other projects in Poughkeepsie.
- (3) Present DSD plans are to shut the STRETCH group down completely early next year. All the personnel not already placed will be up for transfer at that time. This plan has not been officially released, but the news has "gotten around" to most of the personnel.
- (4) There are no plans to transfer any of the STRETCH engineers to Kingston engineering.
- (5) There is presently terrific pressure being put on all managers in DSD to cut costs and reduce personnel for the coming year.
- (6) The STRETCH programming group is in a peculiar spot in that its work will go on for some time after the engineering work has ceased -- particularly in the HARVEST area. This group will not be broken up but there is fear that it may be reassigned to an "unsympathetic" manager.
- (7) Corporate Research already has a list on file of some of the best STRETCH engineers. There are plans to approach certain of them when the time is right.

In view of the present uncertain state of mind among the **STRETCH** personnel, this would seem to be a particularly good time for FSD to make a move to secure some of this unexcelled talent. The recruiting should be on an individual basis, but if the right move were made, there could be a considerable "band wagon" effect in securing whole groups at once.

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