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April 25, 1958

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Dr. William J. Thaler
Office of Naval Research
Washington 25, D. C.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

Dear Dr. Thaler:

SUBJECT: LOKI Phase I Boosters

As you will recall, last January through your kind efforts we were able to obtain the loan of 250 LOKI rocket motors. Attached is a copy of my January 3, letter and January 23, 1958 letter to you along with a copy of Naval authority approving this loan.

These loan arrangements were made at the time based on the then current best scientific appraisal of requirements. In practice, it was proven that the LOKI booster units were inadequate to provide the necessary second or third stage for the particulate air sampling rocket system.

Mr. Harvey of Cooper Development Corporation has advised that twenty LOKI motors were expended in feasibility testing. Accordingly, Cooper will return unused LOKI units which were withdrawn against the loan authority of 250 units. This then leaves us with an obligation of replacing twenty LOKI units.

Frankly, the technical complexity of the overall research and development program, to produce a rocket system capable of particulate air sampling at high altitudes, proved to be extremely more difficult and costly than was anticipated. We are, therefore, faced with the problem of completing the program within the originally authorized amount of funds.

My purpose in writing is to inform you of the status of LOKI's used and to request your consideration in waiving the requirement that the twenty LOKI's which were utilized in research be replaced in kind. If you could find a means to write these off as test units, it would significantly enhance our possibility of completing the work within available funds. Cooper could, if desired, submit a report of their research findings on the attempted application of LOKI units to our particular problem.

Thank you again for your help and consideration on this problem of mutual interest.

Very truly yours,

C. L. Blue
Assistant Business Manager

CLB:ch

cc: R. C. Shute
W. B. Reynolds
O. E. Harvey
H. E. Batzel

WP-Tech
GPK-Hartt
Cooper