

~~RESTRICTED~~RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

27 February 1952

MEMORANDUM FOR: Dr. L. E. Swearingen, Army
Dr. E. R. Piore, Navy
Mr. D. T. Griggs, Air Force

SUBJECT: 25 February 1952 Meeting of Informal Basic Research
Group in RDB

1. At the meeting of the informal group on 25 February 1952, with Dr. A. T. Waterman of the National Science Foundation and Dr. H. V. Gaskill of the Department of the Army in attendance, we arrived at the following general conclusions with regard to the basic research programs planned by the Army, Navy, and Air Force for FY 1953:

a. The total basic research program of the Army, Navy, and Air Force for FY 1953, according to information from the three departments in their original budget submittals to the Research and Development Board, was about \$90 million. Since that time, cuts have been made in the FY 1953 research and development budget (about 10% over-all). Also, an independent estimate by the RDB staff of the total amount of basic research in the FY 1953 program has become available. Recognizing the difficulties of definition, the informal group concluded that the military budget now before Congress contains not more than \$75 million for "basic research" as that term was interpreted by the military departments in their budget submittals.

b. In order to determine how much of this total "basic research" program of the Department of Defense is research having the same general character as that supported by the National Science Foundation, the members of the group have undertaken to divide the total program into:

(1) Programmed basic research, committed to specific military aims; and

(2) Support of academic research that gives evidence of ultimately serving military ends.

The group has considered that only the latter category is research of the same kind as that which the National Science Foundation is designed to support.

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c. It has been assumed that "basic research" classified elsewhere than in the BR category of the RDB Classification System is practically entirely of the programmatic type and that the academic type will be found almost entirely among the projects classified in the BR category.

d. For FY 1953 the total funds classified in the BR category come to about \$32 million, broken down as follows according to the best information now available to the group:

	Army	Navy	Air Force	Total
Government Labs.	\$ 1.7 M	\$ 2.8 M	—	\$ 4.5 M
Industry	0.2 M	0.2 M	\$ 1.0 M	1.4 M
University	6.0 M	5.0 M	15.3 M	26.3 M
Total	\$ 7.9 M	\$ 8.0 M	\$ 16.3 M	\$ 32.2 M

Handwritten notes:
3.5 Ac. (above Army)
2.5 Prog. (above Army)
4 Ac. (above Air Force)
10 Prog. (above Total)
5 Ac. (above Total)

e. Substantially all the funds shown for government laboratories and for industry are likely to support programmatic basic research. Of the total university amount of about \$26 million the group estimated that approximately half would be devoted to basic research of the programmatic type while half would support academic research for military ends.

f. It is therefore concluded on the basis of the data available so far that Department of Defense support for basic research having the same general character as that supported by the National Science Foundation totals between \$10 million and \$15 million for FY 1953.

2. The next task of the informal group is that of considering what revisions of the present "Policy of the Department of Defense on Basic Research" (RDB 173/9) should be recommended. I shall undertake to consult with the members of the group in the next few days regarding the date for our next meeting.

S. D. Cornell
S. D. CORNELL
Research and Development Board.

cc: Dr. Waterman
Dr. Gaskill