

proposal has merit and should be studied further for the purpose of attaining economies.

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REVIEW OF GEODETIC SURVEYING ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT, BUREAU OF THE BUDGET, DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, AND DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

The General Accounting Office has made a review of the geodetic surveying activities of selected agencies of the Federal Government. Our findings and recommendation with regard to the economies available through improved coordination of these activities are summarized in this letter and described in more detail in the accompanying report.

Geodetic surveys are basically land surveys made for the purpose of determining the precise position of specific points on the earth's surface in terms of latitude, longitude, and elevation. Once the positions are identified and monuments are established to mark the positions, the area is considered to be under geodetic control. This report is concerned primarily with horizontal control which identifies positions of known latitude and longitude. The Environmental Science Services Administration, Department of Commerce, has the responsibility for establishing a nationwide network of geodetic control points, and the Bureau of the Budget has the responsibility for coordinating geodetic surveying activities in the Federal Government.

Other Federal agencies—including the Geological Survey, Department of the Interior, in its national mapping program and the Bureau of Public Roads, Department of Commerce, in its highway programs—also establish geodetic control points. These geodetic control points generally are established, however, only to standards required for individual program needs and, for the most part, do not meet the standards of accuracy required to extend the national network. Consequently, the Environmental Science Services Administration plans to resurvey most of the same areas to establish geodetic control points that will meet the standards of the national network.

We believe that, if the initial surveys could be made to national network standards, substantial savings in effort and cost would result, because it would not be necessary for the Environmental Science Services Administration to resurvey the same areas. On the basis of data available during our review, we estimated that past or planned expenditures for geodetic surveys which would not contribute to the national network of geodetic control by the Bureau of Public Roads under its highway programs would total about \$30 million and by the Geological Survey under the topographic map program would total about \$15 million.

The Bureau of the Budget, in June 1966, agreed that it should continue to press for improved coordination and efficiency in the conduct of the Government's geodetic control activities but doubted that it was either desirable or possible to ensure that all geodetic control work would extend the national network. Subsequently, in September 1966, the Bureau of the Budget advised us that the Geological Survey and the Environmental Science Services Administration had entered into an agreement whereby horizontal geodetic control to