

Mr. WITT. Have various variations on the theme, if you will, on the ways you can do this. We plan to explore this pretty thoroughly in analyzing it and looking at actual field tests.

Mr. ROBACK. If you come to a preloaded configuration or method, will that have any impact on the launcher configuration?

Mr. WITT. No.

LAUNCHER COMMONALITY

Mr. ROBACK. Will it enhance the possibilities of common use with the Navy?

For example, are you both talking about the same length of rocket?

Mr. WITT. Well, at this point we are not using the longer rocket.

Colonel DICKENS. The longer launcher.

Mr. WITT. I mean the longer launcher.

Mr. ROBACK. You are talking about China Lake. Is that for the longer or the shorter or what?

Colonel MANNING. That is for the longer.

Mr. ROBACK. The longer and you do not know whether you are going to use the longer?

Mr. WITT. This is right. We do not know yet.

Mr. ROBACK. You do not know whether this China Lake thing is even interesting to you yet?

Mr. WITT. It is interesting, we can say that, but whether or not it will satisfy our requirement remains to be seen. The Air Force test program is designed to verify whether an item should be procured for Air Force use.

Mr. ROBACK. This is more or less than the problem of developing another launcher source. This is a question of whether you are interested in using the same length of launcher as the Navy; is that right?

Mr. WITT. This is right.

Colonel MANNING. In our certification tests and in our development tests of this launcher, we could possibly accept the additional 10 inches.

Mr. ROBACK. Why does the Navy have a longer launcher, because of the different kinds of aircraft?

Colonel MANNING. No, sir; because they are using a different warhead than we are using.

Mr. ROBACK. Why is that?

Mr. WITT. We do not have the same—

Mr. ROBACK. Why is the Navy using a different warhead?

Colonel DICKENS. I do not think this is right.

Commander KATCHER. We are all using the same rocket, warhead, and fuse, sir.

Mr. ROBACK. Somebody stands corrected here.

Colonel MANNING. I stand corrected.

Commander KATCHER. If Colonel Manning will permit me, the difference, as I stated yesterday, sir, involves the need for radiation hazard protection aboard ship.

Mr. ROBACK. In other words, the extended length is a ship-peculiar problem, if I may use a common parlance.

Commander KATCHER. It is a ship-generated requirement. However, it gives us the advantage of being able to put steel end pans on these things, because the rocket is completely enclosed in the launcher, and thus we put six of these on a pallet for shipping purposes.