VIRGINIA POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

NASA -
In Reference to SC-NGR-47-004-018.

In accordance with your letter of April 25, 1966 we are submitting the following progress report. This report is to cover the first 6 months of effort starting with the backdated March 1, 1966 approval date.

1. Approval of grant dated March 1, 1966.

2. Notification of this laboratory of approval - April 9, 1966.

3. Purchase and installation of necessary items of equipment completed June 1, 1966.

4. Technicians hired and began training June 15, 1966.

5. Work completed June 15 to August 1, 1966 (1-1/2 month period) as follows:

Sample missle components supplied by NASA June 15, 1966. Seven individual component parts and eight mixed groups of components representing 104 parts have been subjected to ultra sonic cleaning in oxygen-free conditions submerged in pre-reduced media with initial oxydation reduction potential below minus 40 millivolts. The parts were off the shelf components which had been stored in plastic packets at room temperature for about 3 months. To date 9 obligate anaerobes have been isolated from the components. These cultures are being compared and characterized to determine which species of bacteria are represented and their probable original source. Studies are planned to load similar parts with the types represented to develop methods for sampling surfaces which cannot be immersed. Of prime importance is the determination of any fastidious anaerobes, among the isolates, representing bacteria which would not have been detected with less exacting conditions of anaerobiosis. If none are found, it will greatly simplify the sampling procedures NASA should establish. However, if some are found, these will be highly significant because of their ability to flourish in oxygen low environments.

WECMoore

W. E. C. Moore, Principal Investigator

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