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National Aeronautics and
Space Administration

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Houston, Texas
77058

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NASA

Reply to Attn of:

CB-91-072

TO: BG4/Helon Crawford
FROM: CB/William E. Thornton, M.D.
SUBJECT: Whitmore Contract

Sorry to hear of the problems with delivery of the final item in the contract for exercise gear, for it had gone so well on the first 4 items. It is not surprising for the previous results were produced by an extraordinary ongoing technical team effort between NASA and the contractor. This contract was unique in its small dollar value for both the level and extent of products to be delivered and a good deal of continued technical design and feedback by NASA was essential to its continued success. As you know from previous communications this team effort was broken when I left SD at which time I was given written orders not to engage in any exercise related efforts outside CB. The Whitmore contract was of course retained by SD and its director was very much aware of the above situation. Prior to leaving I encouraged him and others in SD to appoint a technical monitor for the contract and to allow me to brief and otherwise aid the transition in any way possible.

This did not happen and apparently the contractor had to proceed without direction, for he called me several times in obvious need of advice. I could only refer him to the above events and encourage him to request a technical monitor be appointed. He felt he had no recourse but to continue as best as possible.

At this point, if allowed, I would be willing to resume my former role in the contract to expedite delivery. This would require Flight Crew Operations Directorate coordination. It appears, however, that conditions have evolved during this hiatus that may require either reducing specifications or increasing costs.

W. Thornton

William E. Thornton, M.D.

cc: Donald R. Puddy