

sonic transport project, although in most respects the XB-70 and the SST are quite dissimilar.

One of the XB-70 aircraft, the better of the two, crashed in June 1966, in ignominious circumstances. This plane and a smaller aircraft collided while flying in formation to allow the General Electric Company to take photographs for public relations purposes. For the past year, research with the surviving XB-70 has been under the management of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Now nearing a point where the additional research data it produces are of marginal value, the aircraft will be retired at the end of 1968.

The B-70 project, in its early phases, provides a classic example of failure to analyze rigorously the concept of the mission to be performed and the state of the technology the mission requires. The project's history also illustrates the political weight which a military service and its supporters and cheerleaders in Congress sometimes can throw behind undertakings of little discernible merit.

Secretary McNamara was not the first to question the value of the B-70, but he, backed by President Kennedy, was the first to defy Congress and refuse to proceed with development of this weapons system. In 1960 the Eisenhower administration concluded that

the B-70 program should be limited to the production of two prototype aircraft. But Congress called for the development of an operational bomber fleet and appropriated funds accordingly. In his fiscal 1962 budget, submitted to Congress just before he left office, President Eisenhower capitulated on this issue and provided for the B-70's continued development toward operational status.

McNamara, however, in the revised defense budget submitted to Congress in the spring of 1961, refused to go along with this plan. He limited the project goals to the testing of the technical feasibility of the B-70's structure and configuration, plus that of certain subsystems. Congress again insisted on development of a complete, operational weapons system and appropriated far more money than McNamara was willing to spend.

Thus was the stage set for the big battle over the B-70 in 1962, although by then the bomber had been rechristened the RS-70. The Air Force, realizing that in an era of increasingly sophisticated weaponry there was no place for a new strategic aircraft carrying free-fall bombs, had redefined the bomber's mission. Now emphasized was the plane's potential as a "reconnaissance-strike" aircraft which, following a missile attack on the enemy, could survey the damage and hit major untouched targets with its own missiles.

The House Armed Services Committee, under its then chairman, Representative Carl Vinson of Georgia, was the congressional body most determined to force the administration's hand and to require that an operational bomber be built. In an effort to persuade Vinson and others in Congress of the folly of a full RS-70 development, McNamara submitted to them a statement concerning the proposed aircraft's "cost-effectiveness."

In part, the statement reflected the fact that, under McNamara's regime, all strategic programs were for the first time being systematically reviewed and compared from the standpoint of their value for meeting the nation's strategic objectives. No longer were the Air Force, the Army, and the Navy to be left to plan separately, each for its own kind of nuclear war. To be sure, the idea of a unified approach to defense planning had been around for a long time, but it remained for McNamara to implement it effectively.

For example, studies by the Secre-

### Chicago Group Seeks To Sever IDA Tie

A faculty committee has recommended that the University of Chicago terminate its association with the Institute for Defense Analyses (IDA), a "think tank" that prepares studies on matters of national security for the Defense Department and other government agencies. If the recommendation is endorsed by the Council of the University Senate, the faculty's main decision-making body, and then approved by the university trustees, Chicago will become the first of 12 member universities to pull out of IDA. The issue of IDA affiliation is also under faculty scrutiny at Princeton, and Students for a Democratic Society (SDS), a left-wing activist organization, is campaigning to drive IDA off all 12 member campuses.

The students are particularly critical of IDA's role in military matters and the Vietnam war, but the five-man Chicago committee, headed by Julian R. Goldsmith, chairman of the geophysical sciences department, made "no moral judgment on the work of IDA." Instead, it argued for disaffiliation on the grounds that there is "no real interaction between the University of Chicago and IDA," since the university's representative on IDA's board of trustees and various faculty members who have served as consultants to IDA "have acted as individuals" rather than as "real" agents of the university. The trustee, for example, does not report to the university, nor is he advised by the faculty or staff. "The university-IDA relationship appears to us to be an anomaly," the committee said, "and our membership might best be described as a legal fiction."

The committee argued that "affiliation with other organizations should be mutually beneficial and produce direct interactions that broaden the university's function of research and teaching." The committee also found it "difficult for us to picture the University playing either a guiding or a restraining role in a situation where the University doesn't have any real knowledge of what IDA is doing." Many members of the faculty were not even aware of the university's participation in IDA until the issue was raised by SDS.

The Goldsmith committee's report deliberately refrained from recommendations that would limit "the freedom of individual faculty members to participate in IDA, or in fact to lend their abilities to any agency concerned with national problems, be it civil or military." Nor did the report recommend that the university representative, A. Adrian Albert, dean of the division of physical sciences, resign from IDA's board of trustees. Albert told Chicago newsmen he intends to continue as a trustee even if the Goldsmith committee's recommendations are adopted.—P.M.B.