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TO: NATIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL TO THE REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAMS

SUBJECT: AUTOMATION RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT AND OTHER MAJOR  
EQUIPMENT INVESTMENT IN A REGIONAL MEDICAL PROGRAM

1. Minutes of the Council meeting of March 31 - April 1, 1970 record Council interest in projects involving automated technologies, particularly those which can be easily identified as "R & D."
2. In the view of the staff, the risks of failure or of departure from RMP principles that attend R & D projects involving automation also occur in many other projects that propose large investments in equipment.
3. The following document, Automation Research and Development, and Other Major Equipment Investments in a Regional Medical Program, is presented in two sections. The first, Guide to Project Review, is intended for issuance to Regional Medical Programs as a part of our forthcoming guidance system. The second, headed Background, and beginning on page 4, sums up the staff study and reasoning which produced the Guide.

October 22, 1970