



ARGON

~~HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]~~  
~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~



5 December 1963  
Limited Distribution

UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

SUBJECT : Recommendation for Additional ARGON Missions

The attached memorandum from the Chairman, COMOR, will be scheduled for USIE consideration of the recommendation contained in paragraph 3 thereof, at the USIB meeting on 11 December 1963.



Executive Secretary

Attachment

~~HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]~~  
~~CONTROL SYSTEM~~

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SUBJECT: Recommendation for Additional ARGON Missions

1. The last ARGON mission scheduled and available in 1963 has now been accomplished in the completion of 9059A. The COMOR has received a briefing on the results of that mission in the context of the Department of Defense program for establishing geodetic control. This briefing revealed that taking into account cloud cover, the actual ephemeris, and some operational defects, about 50 per cent of the film was useable. It also revealed that there are a number of areas in Russia (in the far north and gaps between passes) which have not been covered. Valuable coverage of Antarctica was obtained. It was noted in this briefing that a lower angle of inclination would permit passes to cross the USSR from east to west, thereby increasing the likelihood that some of the gaps would be filled, subject of course to weather.
2. In the light of this briefing and the remaining needs of the geodetic program and in the light of the experience acquired through the previous missions, COMOR has concluded that additional missions will be required in 1964 to complete the acquisition of photography for establishing the geodetic base for which the ARGON program was devised.
3. Recommendation: That the NRO take appropriate action at this time to schedule additional ARGON missions for 1964 (estimated three or four) beginning at the earliest date in the summer, the number of missions to be flown to be dependent upon COMOR's review of each mission to ascertain whether subsequent missions are necessary. (The NRO advises that at this time such scheduling would not affect the other satellite reconnaissance programs.)

[redacted]  
for [redacted]  
James Q. Reber  
Chairman  
Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance  
[redacted]