

DATE

2255Z 08 SEP 61

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

SECRET

1	2	3	4	5	6

1400008331

ROUTINE

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : [REDACTED]

ACTION: DPD (1-2-3-4-5-6-7-8-9-10)

INFO : S/C (11)

CX

Declassified and Released by the NRC

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

TOR: 0130Z 09 SEP 61

TO : [REDACTED]

INFO

[REDACTED]

CITE

[REDACTED]

TO MESSRS MURPHY, [REDACTED] AND PARANGOSKY FROM COL WORTHMAN

THE FINAL REPORT ON DISCOVERER 27 SALVAGE OPERATIONS IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

QUOTE: MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] DTD 15 AUG 61. SUBJECT: DISCOVERER 27 SALVAGE OPERATIONS.

1. AS REQUESTED BY [REDACTED] THE FOLLOWING IS A CHRONOLOGICAL DESCRIPTION OF THE SALVAGE OPERATIONS CONDUCTED ON DISCOVERER 27, LAUNCHED ON 21 JUL 1961.

A. LIFT-OFF PLUS ONE HOUR--HELICOPTER SWEEPS OF OCEAN AND LAND AREA CONDUCTED. SWEEP AREA INCLUDED AN AREA FROM THE LAUNCH PAD TO POINT CONCEPTION APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE INLAND AND TWO MILES TO SEA. NO DEBRIS VISIBLE ON THE LAND AREA INVESTIGATED. TWO LARGE OIL SLICKS WERE LOCATED OFF THE MILITARY BEACH APPROXIMATELY ONE MILE, ONE OF WHICH CONTAINED FLOATING DEBRIS (THOR MISSILE BOTTLES AND THE FUEL TUBE). THESE OIL SLICKS WERE NOT MARKED AT THE TIME DUE TO LACK OF BOUYIS IN THE HELICOPTERS.

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(MORE)

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CITE [REDACTED]

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B. LAUNCH PLUS ONE DAY--SALVAGE BOAT AND FIVE DIVERS ON STATION. SALVAGE OPERATION BEGAN AT 1000 HRS. INITIAL POSITIONING OF SALVAGE BOAT OBTAINED BY VISUAL AND RADAR FIXES AND EIGHT DIVES WERE MADE ON SEVEN LOCATIONS IN AN AREA OF APPROXIMATELY 400 SQUARE YARDS; NO CONTACTS. HAND HELD UNDER-WATER SONAR EQUIPMENT WITH A DETECTION RANGE OF 180 YARDS WAS USED. UNDER-WATER VISIBILITY - EIGHT FEET, DEPTH OF WATER - 60 FEET, BOTTOM - HARD, SMOOTH SAND.

C. LAUNCH PLUS TWO DAYS--SALVAGE BOAT AND DIVERS ON STATION AT 1000 HOURS. RECOVERY OPERATIONS DELAYED UNTIL 1200 HOURS AWAITING REDUCED OPTICAL DATA DELIVERY FROM PMR. SIX DIVES MADE ON OPTICAL FIXES BASED ON REDUCED DATA; NO CONTACTS. AT THIS TIME, ALL OPERATIONS WERE SUSPENDED UNTIL THE ARRIVAL OF MINESWEEPERS TO SEARCH THE AREA.

D. LAUNCH PLUS FIVE DAYS--TWO MINESWEEPERS AND SALVAGE BOAT WITH SIX DIVERS ON STATION. TWO DIVES MADE ON FIRST TARGET. TOP HALF OF BOOSTER LOCATED AND BTL COMPONENTS BROUGHT TO THE SURFACE. OPERATIONS SUSPENDED AT 1700 HOURS DUE TO APPROACHING FOG.

E. LAUNCH PLUS SIX DAYS--THE MINESWEEPERS CONTINUED SEARCHING AN AREA APPROXIMATELY FOUR MILES WIDE AND FOUR MILES TO SEA FROM THE BEACH. THE APPROXIMATE CENTER OF THE AREA WAS 4085.72 YARDS ON A HEADING OF 180.5 DEGREES TRUE FROM PAD 4. THE UPPER HALF OF THE BOOSTER WAS LOCATED 300 YARDS FROM THE REFERENCE MARK. THE ENGINE SECTION OF THE BOOSTER WAS LOCATED APPROXIMATELY 400 YARDS SOUTH OF THE 180 DEGREE LINE. DIVING OPERATIONS CONTINUED. TWELVE DIVES WERE MADE IN DEPTHS OF 60 TO 105 FEET. MANY SUSPECTED CONTACTS WERE MARKED BY THE MINESWEEPERS, ALL WERE INVESTIGATED BY THE DIVERS; HOWEVER, THE

CITE [REDACTED]

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TWO CONTACTS MENTIONED ABOVE WERE THE ONLY POSITIVE ONES. ONE MINE-SWEEPER RETURNED TO BASE AFTER THE DAYS OPERATION.

F. LAUNCH PLUS SEVEN DAYS--SALVAGE BOAT AND SIX DIVERS ON STATION AT 1000 HOURS. THE MINSWEEPER WAS REQUESTED TO SEARCH AN AREA 400 YARDS WIDE ON A HEADING OF 172.9 FROM PAD 4 EXTENDING TO THE BEACH AT SURF. THIS WAS REQUESTED AS A RESULT OF TRACKING STAT IO INFORMATION. DIVING CONSISTED OF A CHECK OF ADDITIONAL CONTACTS AND RECHECK OF THE 40 POSITIVE CONTACTS TO A MORE EXTENSIVE AREA. SEVEN DIVES WERE MADE. NO FURTHER POSITIVE CONTACTS WERE LOCATED. THE DECISION TO DISCONTINUE THE SEARCH WAS RELAYED TO THE SALVAGE BOAT AT 1430. [REDACTED], CAPTAIN, USAF. END OF QUOTE.

END OF MESSAGE