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ROUTINE [redacted] CITE [redacted]

CORONA

FOR: AP AND SI

1. THE DISCUSSIONS CONCERNING THE NEED TO RETEST J-16 IN THE TASC REVEALED SERIOUS DOUBTS ABOUT THE CONCLUSIVENESS OF THE TASC TEST IN SO FAR AS CORONA MARKING IS CONCERNED. IN PARTICULAR, IT IS YOUR BELIEF THAT PRESENT TASC TESTING IS INADEQUATE FOR REACHING ANY CONCLUSIONS ON THE PROBABLE CORONA MARKING SUSCEPTIBILITY OF THE SYSTEM BELOW A PRESSURE OF FOUR-TENTHS MICRON.

2. IT IS RECOGNIZED THAT PRESENT ON-ORBIT INSTRUMENTATION DOES NOT TELL US THE LOW LIMIT OF THE PRESSURE PROFILE EXPERIENCED IN J MISSIONS. HENCE WE DO NOT REALLY KNOW THE PRESSURES TO WHICH SYSTEMS SHOULD BE TESTED FOR THE CORONA MARKING PROBLEM. OBVIOUSLY ON-ORBIT CONDITIONS CANNOT BE PRECISELY DUPLICATED IN TESTING THE J SYSTEM. THIS LIMITATION REQUIRES THE CAREFUL EVALUATION OF THE SYSTEM TEST DATA THAT IS AVAILABLE, AND THE APPLICATION OF ENGINEERING JUDGEMENT TO THOSE REGIMES IN WHICH SYSTEM TEST DATA IS NOT AVAILABLE.

Declassified and Released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997 ~~SECRET~~



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3. THE ONLY JUSTIFICATION OF TASC TESTS IS THAT THEY SUFFICIENTLY DUPLICATE ON-ORBIT CONDITIONS TO ALLOW REASONABLE CONCLUSIONS TO BE MADE CONCERNING THE FLIGHT WORTHINESS OF THE SYSTEM. REQUEST YOU RECOMMEND TO THIS OFFICE WHAT PRACTICAL CHANGES IN THE PRESENT TASC TEST CAN BE MADE TO ALLOW FLIGHT CERTIFICATION OF THE SYSTEM TO BE MADE BASED UPON TASC RESULTS.

~~SECRET~~

END OF MESSAGE

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[REDACTED]