

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

REF ID: A6661220

DATE

~~TOP SECRET~~

1		9
2		10
3		11
4		12
5		13
6		14
7		15
8		16

TO :

FROM :

ACTION:

INFO :

Declassified and Released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

[REDACTED]

10 [REDACTED]

TO

INFO

CITE

~~TOP SECRET~~ 022351Z FEB 68 CITE [REDACTED]

PRIORITY [REDACTED] INFO [REDACTED]

1045

REF [REDACTED]

FROM COL MURPHY

1. A FULL INVESTIGATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTED. THE BASIC COMPUTATION OF DESIRED COMMAND POSITIONS AT VEHICLE FADE WAS CORRECTLY DETERMINED BY THE AP REPRESENTATIVE AND THE FTFD REP USING A METHOD OF INDEPENDENT COMPUTATION AND THEN COMPARISON. AN ERROR WAS MADE IN THE COMPUTATIONS INVOLVING THE NUMBER OF COMMANDS REQUIRED TO GO FROM THE ACQUISITION COMMAND POSITION TO THE FADE COMMAND POSITION. THIS STEP INVOLVED MATHEMATICAL COMPUTATION ONLY BY THE FTFD REP WITH INDEPENDENT CHECKING (BUT NOT SEPARATE COMPUTATION) BY OTHERS. CHECKING OF THE FTFD REP MATHEMATICAL COMPUTATION IS PERFORMED ON A MASTER COMMAND SHEET THAT CONTAINS A SIGNATURE BLOCK FOR OPS PLANS, THE TESTS CONTROLLER AS WELL AS THE FTFD REP. IN ADDITION THE MASTER COMMAND SHEET IS VERBALLY CHECKED BY AP REP AND THE TRACKING STATION. UNQUESTIONABLY

~~TOP SECRET~~

GROUP 1
EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC
DOWNGRADING AND
DECLASSIFICATION

IF THE TELEMETRY OPERATIONS HAD BEEN NORMAL THIS ERROR WOULD HAVE BEEN CAUGHT SINCE THE FADE POSITIONS WOULD NOT HAVE BEEN CONSISTENT WITH THE MASTER COMMAND SHEET AND AN ADDITIONAL COMMAND WOULD HAVE BEEN ISSUED TO PLACE IT IN THE RIGHT POSITION.

2. PROCEDURES WERE NOT PROPERLY FOLLOWED IN THAT AFTER A BASIC ERROR WAS MADE IN COMPUTING THE NUMBER OF TIMES TO SEND A COMMAND, PROPER CHECKS WERE NOT PERFORMED. THE PROCEDURES WERE FOUND WEAK IN THAT THE NUMBER OF REQUIRED COMMANDS TO PROCEED FROM THE ACQUISITION TO THE FADE COMMAND POSITION IS NOT COMPUTED INDEPENDENTLY. IT IS COMPUTED BY ONLY ONE INDIVIDUAL AND THEN CHECKED BY OTHERS. IN THE FUTURE INDEPENDENT COMPUTATION AND THEN COMPARISON METHOD WILL BE USED AS OPPOSED TO THE SINGLE COMPUTATION AND CHECKING BY OTHERS METHOD.

3. AS TO THE QUESTION OF RESPONSIBILITY, THE FTFD REP IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE FOR THE BASIC COMPUTATION AND IS RESPONSIBLE TO INSURE THAT THE COMMANDS ARE PLACED IN THE POSITION AGREED TO BETWEEN THE AP REP AND THE FTFD REP, THAT IS, THE FTFD REP MUST BEAR THE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE MATHEMATICAL ERROR, AS WELL AS THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMAND BEING SENT INCORRECTLY. ALL INDIVIDUALS WHO SIGNED THE MASTER COMMAND WORK SHEET MUST ALSO SHARE IN THIS RESPONSIBILITY.

4. AS A RESULT OF THIS INCIDENT THE FTFD REP ON DUTY WILL BE RELIEVED OF HIS POSITION AND LETTERS OF REPRIMAND WILL BE ISSUED TO INDIVIDUALS WHO SIGNED THE MASTER COMMAND SHEET. THE PROCEDURES WILL BE CHANGED AS MENTIONED ABOVE. IN ADDITION, FOR THE DURATION OF THE PRESENT MISSION, A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE PROGRAM OFFICE WILL ACT AS A THIRD CHECK ON THE COMMAND INSTRUCTIONS.