

MR VANCE HAS SEEN

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

March 24, 1965

Cy,

I saw a copy of the attached message from General Carter last evening. I interpret it as saying that there will be no change from the conditions prevailing on the last two missions. It is these conditions that I consider unsatisfactory.

To verify this interpretation, I had [redacted] who is General Greer's project director for CORON [redacted] Delete This and is usually delegated to run the orbital operations, call [redacted] senior CIA man at the CIA facility. The following paraphrases the essentials of the conversation as reported to me.

[redacted] Do you interpret this message as introducing any change over the last mission?

[redacted] No.

[redacted] Under these conditions, will you release to me details on the health of the camera and camera section?

[redacted] No.

Feeling that as of that time I could get nowhere trying to argue with Carter by telephone from the West Coast, I directed that the mission be postponed one day.

At this moment, 10:30 a.m., Carter is not available by telephone.

I am unwilling to conduct a mission unless full information on the condition of the payload and payload section is freely available to those of General Greer's people who are running the operation. I have two choices: issue a directive having the force of the attached draft, or take charge myself and issue a comparable directive naming me instead of Director Program A [redacted]

Attachments

HANDLE BY [redacted] SYSTEM ONLY

PLS PUT ON TEST PLS PUT ON TESTER  
GETTING BAD COPY HERE  
KK

OK ON TESTER  
GA TFC WITH YOUR 194 AGAIN PLS  
KFTA647  
232217Z ZEA ZPO [REDACTED]  
BT  
XXXXX ZEA  
[REDACTED]

~~TOP SECRET 232217~~  
PRIORITY [REDACTED]

AS ON PREVIOUS CORONA TESTS, IT IS DESIRED THAT AN  
AUTHORITATIVE REPRESENTATIVE OF CIA BE PRESENT AT THE  
SATELLITE TEST CENTER DURING ALL CRITICAL PHASES OF THE  
ORBITAL OPERATION OF CORONA 1018. AS USUAL, THIS REPRESENTATIVE  
WILL BE PREPARED TO DISCUSS WITH THE DIRECTOR, PROGRAM A,  
OR DIRECTOR [REDACTED] INFORMATION ON THE CONDITION AND  
OPERATION OF THE PAYLOAD AND THE PAYLOAD SECTION OF THE  
VEHICLE WHICH COULD IN ANY WAY AFFECT THE HEALTH OF THE  
VEHICLE OR BEAR ON THE DECISION OF DE-ORBIT. THIS DOES NOT  
RELIEVE YOU OF YOUR RESPONSIBILITY FOR ENSURING THE INTEGRITY  
OF THE CORONA PAYLOAD.

~~TOP SECRET~~

CFN 4855 CIA 1018 A 241 DE-ORBIT NOT RELIEVE  
BT

[REDACTED] - DNRD  
CIA LANGLEY  
CIA CORONA OFFICE ON West Coast

NN

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DRAFT

To: Director, Program B

Info: Director, Program A

During the conduct of missions 1016 and 1017, CIA representatives regularly refused requests by the designated representative of Director, Program A, for detailed information on the condition, operation, and status of the camera and payload section. On mission 1017, there were potentially serious malfunctions of a camera that were not reported to anyone at the Satellite Test Center. It was not possible to use the implication of these malfunctions in determining the condition of other parts of the vehicle, such as the command system and the power distribution system, and no diagnostic tests or remedial actions were possible. Also, on mission 1017, there were indications of anomalous power consumption which could not be explained by the known status of the vehicle <sup>at</sup> of the payload interface. No information was made available about the payload section to permit a determination whether the difficulty lay there on in the instrumentation.

This denial of information represents a sharp change from the procedures followed on this program prior to August 1964. It exposes CORONA missions to an unacceptable and inexcusable risk of failure due to undetected or uncorrected malfunction. Accordingly,

I direct that on CORONA mission 1018, and on all subsequent missions, an authoritative representative of Program B be present at the Satellite Test Center at such times during the orbital operation as may be requested by the Director, Program A. It is further directed that this representative be prepared, as requested by the Director, Program A, to release to and to discuss with the Director, Program A, or such other CORONA cleared persons as he may designate, all information on the condition and operation of the payload and the payload section of the vehicle. It is further directed that at all times during the orbital operation, all calibrations and other data necessary to interpret telemetry and to validate commands be physically present at the Satellite Test Center and available to such CORONA cleared individuals as the Director, Program A, may designate.

On mission 1018, I intend to direct the Director, Program A, to give me a full and continuing report on the extent or degree to which your representatives comply with the unequivocal intent and spirit of this directive. If you consider this reporting arrangement unsatisfactory, it will be necessary for you personally to be present at the Satellite Test Center during that mission, to insure and observe compliance on the part of your people, and to report to me thereon.