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Control System

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS UNITED STATES AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



12 May 1969

Handwritten initials

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: Successful TAGBOARD Test Flight, 10 May 1969

On 10 May 1969 another successful near full range flight of the TAGBOARD system was flown by drone #519 over the Pacific Missile Range.

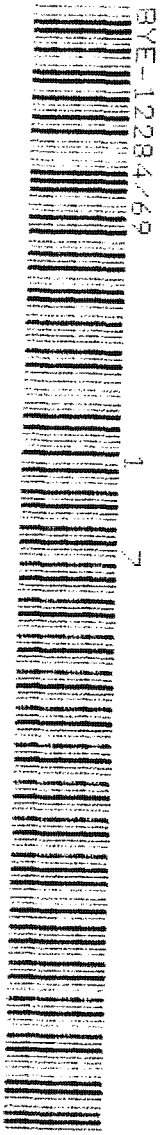
The launch from the B-52 mother aircraft occurred at 2202Z (1802 EDT) at 41,000 feet and was without incident. The drone profile was from a launch point north of Kauai (Hawaiian Islands) down range over enroute islands past Midway with a similar return and recovery of the hatch and payload in the vicinity of Kauai.

The flight was as programed at near nominal: (1) range, approximately 2950 miles, (2) course, within two miles of centerline, except for momentary deviations while in programed turns, (3) altitude, the drone attaining 96,588 feet at termination fuel off, and (4) speed, approximately 3.3 mach.

Hatch recovery was effected at 2358Z (1958 EDT) by JC-130 aircraft. Total drone flight time until hatch ejection was 95.6 minutes.

Telemetry was exceptionally good throughout the mission with trackable signals received at distances exceeding 500 miles.

The operation of the payload camera system, #213, appeared normal with 4978 frames and 3940 feet of film exposed. Sky condition was 50 to 70% cloud free throughout the flight. Film is presently at Eastman Kodak for processing.



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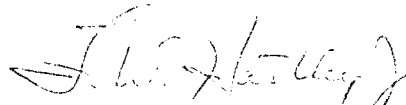
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The above performance data is based on real time read-out. After evaluation of the processed film and instrumentation data, I will be prepared to brief you at your convenience on the detailed flight results.

cc: NRO Staff



FRANK W. HARTLEY, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Director, Program D

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