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Project IDEALIST-OXCART-CORONA-GAMBIT-

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## SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

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PRESIDENTS FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

ADVISORY BOARD

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ACTIVITIES OF THE

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NOVEMBER 1965 = 30 APRIL 1966

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SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT

TO THE

PRESIDENT'S FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE

ADVISORY BOARD

ON ACTIVITIES OF

THE NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM

1 Nov 65 - 30 Apr 66

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IDEALIST/OXCART/CORONA/GAMBIT/DORIAN HEXAGON/QUILL

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DORIAN - Contract definition phase (Phase I) effort for the Manned Orbital Laboratory (MOL) continued with Douglas Aircraft for the Lab Module, the General Electric Company for the Mission Module, McDonnell Aircraft Corporation for the GEMINI B capsule, the Eastman Kodak Company for the optical payload and the TITAN III booster contractors for the up-rated TITAN III vehicle. Submission of firm Phase II (hardware acquisition phase) contractor proposals is scheduled for May and June 1966 with Phase II initiation planned for September 1966. Contracts for long-lead items of hardware and for facility construction at Eastman Kodak, which are required to protect the scheduled launch of an "all-up" manned laboratory in late 1969, were issued in March and April.

Selection of the launch site at Point Arguello, Air Force Western

Test Range (WTR) was completed in March 1965. Site preparation and

design of the launch facilities have been initiated.

Announcement was made in November 1965 of the selection of eight MOL astronauts. Two Navy and six Air Force officers were chosen.

All are experienced pilots and graduates of the Air Force Aerospace

Test Pilot School.

Pursuant to the November 1965 direction of the President's

Scientific Advisory Committee, the MOL design configuration was

altered to permit operation in the unmanned as well as in the manned

mode. For unmanned operation the GEMINI B will be replaced by a

module containing multiple (probably 6) re-entry vehicles.

Firm definition and selection of the primary optical system was completed in February 1965. Studies revealed that a 70-inch aperture lens would be required (vice the 60-inch previously thought adequate) to provide the desired ground resolution.

