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25 October 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

SUBJECT:

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1. A question has been raised in COMOR concerning the extent to which the 698BK payloads are meeting the requirements they were intended to satisfy. This is a complex question and is intimately involved with the evaluation of the results of . The results of that mission, however, are still being processed and the final judgment is by no means clear as yet.

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2. COMOR and its SIGINT Working Group will be working on this problem during the next few weeks, and we will advise you of our views as soon as possible. You should be aware, however, that sufficient doubts have been raised in the discussions already held to make it possible that COMOR may ultimately recommend that not be launched. We recognize that if you are to meet the schedule for launching there is considerable work that needs to be done in the meantime to translate the community's requirements into a program for the vehicle. We have reviewed this matter in the light of our discussions concerning the broader problem and conclude that there is no intelligence reason known to us at this time that would require that the mission be flown on the scheduled date if it is to be flown at all. From the standpoint of the intelligence community, the usefulness will probably not be affected even if the launch date were slipped a number of weeks.

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3. Your observers on COMOR and the SIGINT Working Group will be kept advised as our study progresses, and we will forward our conclusions to you at the earliest possible date.



William A. Tidwell

Chairman

Committee on Overhead Reconnaissance

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