

[REDACTED]  
SPS/DDS&T  
7905  
1 Dec 64

**SECRET**

[REDACTED]

**DIRECTOR**

X

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

CORONA

REF: [REDACTED]

1. IN VIEW OF RECENT TRAFFIC CONCERNING THIS PROBLEM, I HAVE DIRECTED MY PEOPLE TO OBJECTIVELY EXAMINE THE INCIDENTS TO WHICH YOU OBLIQUELY REFER, AND I HAVE CONCLUDED THAT WHATEVER PROBLEMS HAVE OCCURRED ARE NOT TRACEABLE TO DEFICIENCIES IN THE STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES PRESENTLY IN USE; NOR CAN A CASE BE MADE FOR ANY LAPSE ON THE PART OF HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL AT [REDACTED] IT IS THEREFORE MY CONCLUSION THAT THESE PROBLEMS, IF ANY, ARE THE RESULT OF ATTEMPTS TO UNILATERALLY MODIFY SAID PROCEDURES. I THEREFORE STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT, PENDING SOLUTION OF CORONA PROGRAM ORGANIZATIONAL RESPONSIBILITIES;

A) EXISTING COMMUNICATIONS PROCEDURES

Declassified and Released by the NRO

**SECRET**

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

on [REDACTED]

**SECRET**

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**AND ROUTING BE MAINTAINED;**

**B) THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR COMMUNICATION  
WITH THE PAYLOAD DURING AN OPERATION  
REMAIN WITH HEADQUARTERS PERSONNEL AT**

**[REDACTED] WHICH RESPONSIBILITY INCLUDES**

- 1. ALL DECISIONS AFFECTING OR  
INFLUENCED BY TECHNICAL HEALTH OF THE  
PAYLOAD, TAKING PROPER COGNIZANCE OF  
VEHICLE STATUS.**
- 2. ALL DECISIONS AS TO WHEN AND HOW  
TO RECOVER, EXCEPT FOR DECISIONS TO  
RECOVER EARLY FOR INTELLIGENCE REASONS,  
WHICH DECISION WILL BE TRANSMITTED PER SOP.**
- 3. ALL DECISIONS TO CARRY OUT ON  
ORBIT ENGINEERING OPERATIONS.**

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**4. EXECUTING ALL OPERATIONAL  
INSTRUCTIONS RECEIVED FROM [REDACTED] UNLESS  
STATUS OF PAYLOAD OR VEHICLE RENDERS  
SUCH ACTION INADVISABLE.**

**C) PRESENT OPERATIONAL PROCEDURES, WORKED  
OUT OVER THE YEARS, TO RELATE PAYLOAD AND  
VEHICLE INTERFACE PROBLEMS DURING AN  
OPERATION, REMAIN IN FORCE.**

**D) NO CHANGES TO ANY SOP OR MANUAL REFLECTING  
SAME BE AUTHORIZED AT THIS TIME.**

**END OF MESSAGE**

**Marshall S. Carter  
DDCI**

**[REDACTED]  
C/SPS/DDSET**

**SECRET**