

**[REDACTED]**  
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23 SEP 1959

Mr. Roy L. Johnson  
Director, ASPA  
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Roy:

I understand that ASPA would like to use one of the Discoverer vehicles this winter to place in orbit a **[REDACTED]**

**[REDACTED]** This would, of course, require the use of a vehicle now scheduled to carry a CORONA payload which has been fabricated and is ready for use this winter.

Although I feel that our program carries the highest priority, I recognize that for cover purposes and for other reasons it would be advantageous to our program to include the ABC payload sometime between 1 December and 1 February. I am therefore willing to defer one CORONA launch to a later date provided that ASPA arranges the funding and procurement of an additional Thor-Agena for firing in the 1960 CORONA program. This would increase the number of vehicles in that program from eight to nine, the extra launch to take place late in 1960.

Sincerely yours,

(SGD) Richard M. Bissell, Jr.  
Richard M. Bissell, Jr.  
Deputy Director  
(Plans)

**[REDACTED]**

Distribution:

**[REDACTED]**