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Copy [REDACTED]

7 April 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT : Briefing of General Clifton, White House Staff, on ARGON Mission 9016

1. At 0915 6 April I proceeded to General Clifton's office in the White House to give him an informal briefing on ARGON Mission 9016 scheduled for launch 8 April 1961. I had with me a mission briefing book prepared by Intelligence Staff, Development Projects Division, which gave in very simple form mission objectives, orbit and recovery times, projected flight lines, and other related information.

2. In accordance with my instructions, I played this briefing in a law key, pointing out to General Clifton that since this was really the first time since his accession to the office that he holds that we had had an opportunity to tell him what makes up an ARGON mission, we wanted to let him know that one was planned for the time set. General Clifton asked a number of questions designed to straighten out in his own mind the relationship of ARGON to CORONA and both to the DISCOVERER Program. In addition, I showed him a mockup of the film strip by way of explaining that the end product was not comparable from an intelligence point of view with the results achieved in the IDEALIST effort.

3. After making a few brief notes in the folder itself, he indicated he would like to show it to the President, which he hoped to accomplish before the end of the day. I gave him my phone number, and he promised to advise me when the book was ready to be picked up. He did seem to have a slight amount of trouble associating me and this program with CIA, despite the use of Dick Bissell's name. At the end of the briefing, he asked me if I was from NASA, which may have been a slip related to the U-2 Program! As I was walking out the door, he asked if I knew whether any [REDACTED]

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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4. The briefing book was returned to my office on the afternoon of 6 April by [REDACTED] and in order to make certain that I had first hand information on the nature of the President's reaction, I called General Clifton with this question in mind. He said that the President had approved the launch and that he wanted to be advised by CIA, through General Clifton, of the results of the launch, the results of the recovery, if any, and that further he wished a wind-up report in the event of a successful launch dealing with the quality of the product. This last requirement may be the fulcrum to enable the DD/P, DDCI, and DCI to get together with PIC and provide the President with a more or less formal briefing if we are lucky with the shot.

[REDACTED]

ASSISTANT C
DPD-DD/P

CC: [REDACTED]

Distribution: [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]