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C O R O N A

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Note: In a conversation on the 19th May with [REDACTED] I concurred with the judgment of [REDACTED] that a response to this letter is neither needed nor desirable and therefore the attached was not sent.

ADW

WARNING

This document contains information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive information in the designated control channels. Its security must be maintained in accordance with regulations pertaining to [REDACTED] Control System.

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS			DATE	INITIALS
1	<i>L. J. [redacted]</i> [redacted]				[redacted]
2					
3	[redacted]				
4					
5	O/DD/S&T				
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks:					
<p>This is a response to an information report from McMillan regarding the recent CORONA failure. What he fails to mention is that the recovery loss was due to the Air Force AGENA portion of the system and so probably need to put the monkey directly on his back to fix that.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">A. D. Wheelon</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.					DATE
O/DD/S&T					17/5/65
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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D. C. 20505

OFFICE OF
THE DEPUTY DIRECTOR (SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY)

[REDACTED]
Copy [REDACTED]

17 MAY 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, National Reconnaissance Office

Your memorandum of 13 May 1965 regarding the recent failure of the second recovery event of CORONA 1019 has been referred to this Directorate. We agree with your analysis, and assume that corrective action is being taken through the group responsible for the AGENA portion of the CORONA system.

Albert D. Wheelon

ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director

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[REDACTED]
Control System

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

TO	NAME AND ADDRESS	DATE	INITIALS
1	[REDACTED]	14 May	[REDACTED]
2	[REDACTED]		
3	[REDACTED]	5/14	[REDACTED]
4	[REDACTED]	5/18	[REDACTED]
5	[REDACTED]		
6	[REDACTED]		

<input type="checkbox"/>	ACTION	<input type="checkbox"/>	DIRECT REPLY	<input type="checkbox"/>	PREPARE REPLY
<input type="checkbox"/>	APPROVAL	<input type="checkbox"/>	DISPATCH	<input type="checkbox"/>	RECOMMENDATION
<input type="checkbox"/>	COMMENT	<input type="checkbox"/>	FILE	<input type="checkbox"/>	RETURN
<input type="checkbox"/>	CONCURRENCE	<input type="checkbox"/>	INFORMATION	<input type="checkbox"/>	SIGNATURE

Remarks:

[REDACTED] Ser A- [REDACTED] for info.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

May 13, 1965

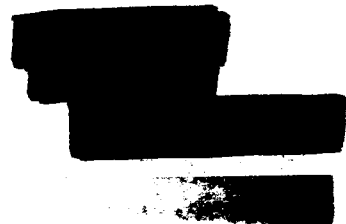
MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

On 8 May, after nine successful days on orbit and one successful recovery, the second bucket of CORONA Mission J-1019 failed to reenter the atmosphere following initiation of the recovery cycle. Instead, the bucket went into a new elongated orbit. A brief summary of our assessment of the failure, and of actions taken, follows.

The most probable cause of failure to recover is that the vehicle had executed a second and additive pitch maneuver prior to separation of the capsule. Thus, the vehicle was then pointing down and forward so that the retro-rocket added net energy to the capsule rather than subtracting it. This placed the capsule in a new orbit with a perigee of 80 nm, apogee of 620 nm, and a period of 98 minutes (as compared to 100 nm, 260 nm, and 91 minutes at the time recovery was attempted).

The second pitch maneuver probably was caused by a redundant (back-up) pitch command on the H-Timer tape. Normally, this command does not take effect when the first pitch command is properly executed; analysis now shows, however, that there is a subtle failure mode in which an auxiliary circuit can direct a second maneuver prior to capsule separation.

We estimate the capsule will remain in the new orbit for 40-60 days. SPADATS now reports four objects in this orbit. Since the normal sequence of events took place after retro-rocket fire, it is most likely that these objects are the heat shield, capsule, thrust cone, and parachute cover. A special watch has been established with SPADATS for the reporting of the predicted impact points.



Since the heat shield appears to have separated from the capsule, it seems unlikely that any of the exposed film will survive reentry into the atmosphere. Nevertheless, film is an excellent ablative material itself and the possibility does exist for survival of some inner portion. We therefore will follow orbit decay and reentry quite closely.

A simple and complete fix will be incorporated in all subsequent CORONA vehicles to preclude any possibility of recurrence.



Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

