



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM FOR DIRECTOR OF ADVANCED RESEARCH
PROJECTS AGENCY

SUBJECT: Public Information - Project DISCOVERY

1. Following is our comment on your draft of a memorandum for the Secretary of the Air Force, subject as above:

a. Proposed Initial Press Release. We concur with this release but recommend that the last sentence of the first paragraph be amended to read: "This satellite is part of a series of missile and vehicle launchings designated 'DISCOVERY' which will be performed under the direction of ARPA by the Air Force."

b. Questions and Answers. The following changes are recommended in the question and answer sheet:

- (1) Amend the answer to the 3d question to read: "Ultimately, the Discoverer, like any satellite that achieves orbital capacity, can be expected to make a contribution to every other satellite program. The same is true of propulsion systems. However, reconnaissance as such is still very much in the research stage and must, of necessity, be considered in terms of a future development."
- (2) Amend the answer to the 5th question to read as follows: "Near polar orbit is the only one feasible from Vandenberg AFB with hardware presently available. Eastward launch from Vandenberg is prevented by safety considerations. Launch to the West would entail an undesirable weight penalty."

*Not yet signed by
See as of 1 Dec.
Approved by group
at ARPA meeting 1 Dec.*

Declassified and released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958
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- (3) Amend the answer to question 7 as follows:
"The second stage development work in both propulsion and bio-medical aspects has been carried out largely by the Lockheed Aircraft Company's Missile Systems Division at Palo Alto, California. It is, therefore, more convenient and more economical for us to provide Lockheed with a launch facility so much closer to Palo Alto than Cape Canaveral. Additionally, we will obtain as a bi-product training of our personnel in handling of missiles, launching, and will be exercising the Pacific Missile Range." The reason for this change is to eliminate a contradiction between the present answer and a statement made by General Donald N. Yates, Commander, Atlantic Missiles Range, on "Meet the Press," 15 November 1958. General Yates stated that Cape Canaveral was not overloaded and that he wished that he had more missiles to fire.
- (4) The answer to question 8 should be amended to delete reference to the weight of the payload.
- (5) The following should be added to the note at the end of the series of questions: "This list of questions and answers is intended as guidance for public information officials. It will be used as the basis for verbal replies to press inquiries growing out of the initial release and will not be issued as a fact sheet."

c. Proposed Information Plan for Project DISCOVERY.

As a result of extensive study which has included visits to the launching site and discussions with the project personnel, a number of changes to this plan are being drafted and will be submitted by separate memorandum.

2. Interested agencies within the Department of the Air Force will be advised of the contents of the release and questions and answers relating thereto upon receipt of the action copy of your memorandum.