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6 July 1959

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Trip Report - [REDACTED]

1. During the period 22 - 26 June the undersigned visited the Palo Alto Control Center to observe during launch of Discoverer IV.

## 2. Personal contacts:

[REDACTED]

Major Webb

Lt. Col. Nathan

3. A short discussion was held on the ARKH Program during the morning of 23 June 1959. Little was accomplished since no requirements or specifications were available at that time.

4. The acceptance of CORONA pay loads was discussed with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED]. In view of the comments in [REDACTED] it was recommended by the undersigned that Major V. K. Webb of the HED field office at Palo Alto be designated as the Officer to inspect and accept all CORONA pay loads. Although Major Webb has been associated with reconnaissance for a number of years, his position at HED offers good security cover for this operation. The following actions and/or procedures are also recommended.

- a. That CORONA pay load acceptance specifications be reviewed and standardized as much as possible.
- b. Acceptance specifications and acceptance Form DD-250 be held on file at [REDACTED] facilities until each unit has been expended.
- c. After flight and/or destruction, recommend Major Webb certify on the same DD Form 250 showing acceptance that the item has been expended experimentally.

5. After cancellation of the flight on 23 June 1959, some concern was expressed as to what effect humidity might have on the pay load during the two-day hold period. Although the undersigned felt that humidity would have little effect if the temperature was held at 60°F, it was decided to lower the missiles and remove the unit during the hold period.

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6. Procedures outlining the taking and handling of photographic coverage during pay load recovery were revised. Since the item (most cases) to be displayed will vary from the unit recovered it is suggested that the importance of strict censorship of the photography, before release, again be stressed. This is particularly important in case of water recovery and release of still photography in Russia.

7. Indications are that there will be numerous operational problems during and immediately after launch that could affect the success of each flight. Some of these are; selection of proper DE settings, pay load conditions during long periods of hold, security; and, as in the case of the last shot, when should recovery be attempted, (had shot reached orbit) on the first, the second, or the third pass? Since those in the DCC Center are not knowledgeable of the pay load or needs of Headquarters requirements, some one from Headquarters should be present during each launch to receive such problems. Early assignment of Lt. Col. Murphy to Palo Alto would solve this problem.



Major, USAF

DDP-22  
Distribution

