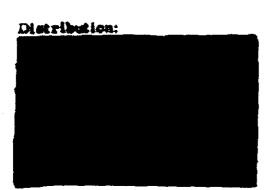
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## PART II PROJECT CORONA

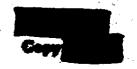


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## PROJECT CORONA

- I. Due to the requirement that has been generated by the rapid technological advancement by the Reseigns, a reconnicement intelligence estellite program that provides acrial reconnicement in support of national intelligence objectives has been developed and is operational. This program is known as CORONA.
- 2. The system used to acquire this reconnciseance employs a two stage earth-circling satellite vehicle, the first stage being a There bears and the second stage a Lockhood Agens Engine. There to a recoverable near case position earsted that seturns expected excesses film to the earth's surface for intelligence photo exploitation.
- 3. To date, the system has acquired photography over the trime, partieus of China, and the establite countries. Average ground resolution has been 20 to 25 feet on a side and approximately 3, 900, 900 aquare miles of this territory has been photographed where the about coverage has been Category III or better (clear to 4/8 cloud coverage). Major items of intelligence significance include new airfields, new activity, build up and defense strongthening of major missile test often and construction areas, and new SAM locations. The system has also demonstrated a capability for obtaining photography with entremely low sum angles.
- 4. Information to improve current maps and charts, target foldors, and information to revise and support combat sporations has also been eletated with this system. The data has augmented information available from other sources and should provide the hasis for operational direction of other intalligence gathering activities.
- 5. There are currently eleven scheduled missions, utilizing this system, remaining to be accomplished by I Jamery 1962. Buring this period a new camera and film will be used that will improve the ground receiption and quality of the returned product.

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on NOV 26 1997

- 6. A follow-on program has recently been approved that will unlike the Ther-Agena recoverable payined vehicle which will entry the camera and film payined necessary to obtain sterrographic photography. But such missions have been approved and the first issuehing has been achebited for the early spring of 1964.
- 7. Operationally DPD has the capability to program the area over which the satellite vehicle will operate the camera; has established necessary control and communication procedures to implement command decisions as to when the camera will operate or not operate; and has organized and tied together the necessary channels to obtain weather invocate and briefings on which to have such command decisions.
- 8. In addition to the CORCHA program BPD is also engaged in certain operational activities of the ARGON program. This program uses the same actellite valicie and insuch boost as the CORCHA program and carries a film psyloid which is also recoverable. The primary mission of the ARGON valicie is for goodstic survey and purpose, not as an intelligence gathering device. By charter agreement, BPD provides operational reports control procedures, Mandanaters control require coverage and action, security processions, cover inputs, courier service, R&D assistance, PIC facilities, airlift, communications, and obtains necessary political approval for ARGON missions. Vital field support is also provided.
- 9. There has been one unsuccessful attempt to complete an ARGON mission since I January 1961. Five ARGON missions are scheduled for trunchings during the months of April. June, July, and August 1961. No follow-on programs have been approved or presented.