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14-00000 11430

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28 July 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED]

DPD/DD/P

SUBJECT: TIROS Photography

1. During my last visit with Col. Murphy at the skunk works, I was informed that they either now have or will have shortly a control capability which will permit deletion of a photographic pass. It was explained to me that, by means of a minor modification to the circuitry, command controls could be given which would block pre-programmed signals from reaching the camera for a selected orbit.

2. It seems that the most logical use of this new command capability would be that of saving film by elimination of a photographic pass when current weather information indicates poor photographic conditions over prime target areas.

3. It seems to us, since we have been following the progress of the TIROS I weather satellite program, which will undoubtedly be followed in the near future with a second such system, that such operational benefit could be gained from the rapid analysis of TIROS material at or near the CORONA command control facility. I don't know whether such has been considered nor do I have a suggestion as to how the proper ties might be made between NASA's readout stations and your people on the West Coast. However, with the advent of longer life CORONA vehicles, it seems that a considerable direct benefit could be achieved by means of operational use of weather information derived from the TIROS program.

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