



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

CORONA

✓ AUG 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

SUBJECT: Impact of Portions of CORONA-J Mission #1005  
in La Fria, Venezuela

The U.S. Air Attache, Caracas, Venezuela, has reported discovery of a U.S. satellite at La Fria (0315 north - 7245 west), Venezuela. A comparison of certain reported equipment serial numbers with the records of the prime CORONA contractor has established definitely that the object is identical with the first recovery capsule of CORONA-J mission #1005, launched 27 April 1964. This satellite malfunctioned on-orbit and normal recovery attempts were unsuccessful.

According to computation of the 6594th Test Wing, Sunnyvale, California, the satellite with recovery capsule re-entered through normal decay on 26 May 1964. At that time, the final impact prediction from that source was 79 degrees south, 147 degrees west at 0343Z plus or minus 30 minutes.

At the same time, however, SPADATS (S) NRO, was checking an information which, as a result of operational prediction, predicted the satellite with impact travelling south to north in the general area of Venezuela. Personnel at Quito, Ecuador; Maracaibo, Venezuela; and Grand Turk were alerted to observe re-entry. Both Quito and Grand Turk reported negative sightings. Maracaibo reported sighting 5 pieces passing overhead and presumably impacting in the Caribbean area.

Reports from Caracas indicate that the object recovered consists of the greater portion of the CORONA recovery capsule, although there is indication of pilferage on the part of the natives and some of the equipment is charred. Items described as "exposed film from the vehicle" and photographs made by a Venezuelan commercial photographer are being pouched to DIA. The balance of the contents said to be in the possession of the Venezuelan Army (C... U.S. Air Attache reports that he anticipated no difficulties having this equipment turned over to the U.S. Embassy. U.S. officers were last reported

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at the suspect site. Venezuelan police were reported attempt-  
ing to obtain these items which had been pilfered. The CIA  
has established communication with its representative in  
Caracas concerning this matter. A joint CIA-Venezuela team  
will be sent for verification of the exact location opportunity  
to return the pilfered equipment.

There have been Reuters, AP, and EPI dispatches on this  
subject, the general content of which is contained in the  
attached ~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~ ~~SECRET~~ of 3 Aug 1961. The Office  
of Intelligence, Department of State, has been advised of this  
information and is being kept advised for suitable confirma-  
tion. An immediate response was given. Appropriate officials  
of the Department of State have been advised of this situation.  
The Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs), and DASA  
have been notified and it has been suggested that at present  
there will be no public information release and that in the  
event of press query, the only response should be that the  
matter is being investigated.

1 Atch  
As stated

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Brockway McMillan  
Director  
(S) National Reconnaissance  
Office

Copy to: Mr. McGeorge Bundy  
Special Assistant to the President  
Director, Central Intelligence

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WASHINGTON STAR  
5 AUGUST 1964

### U. S. Space Package Sought in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela, Aug. 5 (AP).—United States military investigators yesterday headed for a remote mountain village, accessible only on foot, where peasants have discovered an American space instrument package.

Peasants found the apparatus 23 days ago and began using parachute strands for donkey harnesses. Venezuelan authorities got word of the find and notified American officials. The United States Embassy said the device fell in Tachira State, near the Colombian border. It contained cameras, radio transmitters and other scientific instruments marked secret.