

F: 21 Aug 64

~~SECRET~~ SYSTEM ONLY



21 August 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director for Science and Technology

SUBJECT : CORONA Mission 1005 Incident: Reports Thereon

I am returning herewith your reports on the CORONA Mission 1005 incident with the suggestion that this rather formidable package, which I have read in full, could be boiled down into about two pages for the DDGI and DGL. Except for your records, I see little purpose in burdening the DGI with a chronological account of the discovery of the capsule when this could be summarized in a sentence or two. Attachment A, which, again, is a summary chronology, could also be boiled down; but I note, for example, that it fails to give any comment on why the predicted impact area was at 23.6 N while the actual impact area was on the southern latitude reading. I would also suggest that when reports of this nature are distributed outside the technical area it would be of considerable assistance to give the whereabouts in geographical names as well as latitude and longitude because most of us are not navigators. The chronology of OSA actions is certainly something that does not need attention at this level, nor do the raw cables serve much purpose. In summary, rather than burdening senior officials whose time is limited and who are exceedingly busy with documents of this nature, I would urge brief summaries with the pertinent facts.

(Signed) Lyman B. Kirkpatrick

Lyman B. Kirkpatrick  
Executive Director

Attachment: [Redacted]

LBK:drm;rcm  
[Redacted]

Declassified and Released by the N R C  
In Accordance with E. O. 12958  
on NOV 26 1997

*Maybe downgraded without the attachments*

~~SECRET~~ SYSTEM ONLY  
~~SECRET~~



HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
CONTROL CHANNELS

~~SECRET~~  
CORONA

Copy [REDACTED]

4 AUG 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CORONA Mission 1005 Incident

1. This memorandum is for information only.
2. CORONA mission 1005 was launched on 27 April into orbit. Recovery attempts commencing 2 May were unsuccessful. Attached hereto is a chronology of operational reporting received on this mission.
3. On 5 August, OSA received word from its security representative at the Air Force [REDACTED] Center, Los Angeles, California, that a satellite capsule had been reported as coming down near the Venezuelan-Columbia border. The actions taken by OSA upon receipt of this information are detailed in a separate attachment.
4. As a result of the investigation made by OSA in conjunction with Caracas station and the Embassy Attache office there, the following facts are noted:
  - 1 August - First word received by Caracas Army Attache office of finding of a capsule at La Fria, 500 miles southwest of Caracas in a remote region of the Andes.
  - 3 August - Reconfirmation of capsule finding made by telephone call to Caracas Embassy.
  - 4 August - Representatives of the Embassy viewed capsule at San Cristobal to which it had been moved by political police. First press stories appeared.
  - 5 August - Capsule flown by host government to Caracas.
  - 6 August - Capsule held by Minister of Defense, Venezuela.
  - 10 August

CORONA  
~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
CONTROL CHANNELS



- 8 August - Team from Headquarters arrived at Caracas consisting of a security officer and a technical officer from the OSA staff, and a technical officer from NRO.
- 10 August - Capsule turned over to Embassy, examined and reports made by the Headquarters team. Copies of pertinent cables on technical and security aspects attached.
- 12 August - Security officer scheduled to return capsule to West Coast.
- 6 August - For the record, it should be noted that on  
12 August Thursday, 6 August, a request was made by CIA to the NRO to convene a meeting of the Interdepartmental Contingency Planning Committee to assess the problem, coordinate procedures, and assign responsibility for responding to any news media queries which might arise. This procedure would have been in accordance with the contingency plan prepared and agreed to by all interested agencies and available in their files to cope with a situation such as did occur.

During the period from 6 August to 12 August, at least a half dozen additional requests were made to NRO to convene the committee; they were all unsuccessful.

As a result of this lack of coordination and failure to agree on a single course of action, the State Department inadvertently dispatched a cable instructing the Embassy in Caracas to acquire the capsule and return it to NASA Headquarters in Washington. This directly contravened the instructions to the CIA/NRO team already on the scene and prepared to return the capsule to LMSC on the West Coast. The erroneous instructions subsequently had to be retracted.

In our opinion, the confusion, conflicting instructions and delays in accomplishing our objectives could have been avoided if the Contingency Planning Committee had been convened in accordance with the existing agreed policy procedures.

5. Capsule was seen by a large number of Venezuelans, including officials from military police, G-2, Minister of Defense. Photos were taken by host government as well as commercial photographer, and a local newspaper. It is believed that a capsule transmitter which had borne "Secret" markings was removed by host government and retained by it. It must be assumed that due to close visual observation a number of people are aware that this was a reconnaissance vehicle of some sort.

6. The OSA team is returning to Headquarters as soon as possible. A list of further inquiries have been left with the Embassy Attache office, answers to which will be forwarded through Agency channels.

7. The ICPC is being convened Friday to consider various actions to be taken, among them an assessment of the effect of the exposure, and the preparation of a suitable reply to the Venezuelan Minister of Defense. Caracas station has also requested advance information on any release that might be issued.

8. The following attachments are provided for background:

a. A summary chronology of significant operations reporting during mission 1005.

b. A summary comments regarding reentry of the capsule.

c. A list of items missing from the capsule about which the Attache office in Caracas will make inquiries.

d. A chronology of action taken by OSA security staff from receipt of knowledge of the incident to the time a team was dispatched to Caracas to investigate.

e. Copies of cabled reports made by the Headquarters team.

9. A comprehensive report is being developed and will be available upon the completion of our investigation.

ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

Atts: As Stated

CORONA  
~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
CONTROL CHANNELS

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
CONTROL CHANNELS

~~SECRET~~  
CORONA

Signature Recommended:

[REDACTED]

AD/OSA

D/TECH/OSA/JParangosky: [REDACTED] (12 Aug 64)  
Distribution:

[REDACTED]

CORONA  
~~SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA [REDACTED]  
CONTROL CHANNELS

SUMMARY CHRONOLOGY SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS REPORTING DURING  
MISSION #1005

---

1964

- a. 27 April: CORONA/J Mission #1005 launched and an orbit verified.
- b. 28 April: (1) Telemetry indicates that neither main camera window doors ejected, precluding photography. Most probable cause: loss of partial pyro bus power at separation.
- (2) (a) On pass #9 indications from telemetry that slave camera film movement ceased at 350 cycles. This camera was placed in off mode to prevent damage to the system.
- (b) The main camera operation: normal.
- (3) Vehicle condition normal.
- c. 29 April: Telemetry data evaluation available indicates that an "electrical open" has occurred in pyro distribution plug as result of short occurring elsewhere.
- Significance:
- (1) No power has been or can be applied to pyros that eject camera doors.
- (2) High possibility that normal recovery cannot be accomplished because of requirement for pyro power to accomplish certain recovery events.

- ~~SECRET~~
- d. 29 April: Decision made to attempt to recover first capsule on pass #49.
- e. 1 May: Recovery attempt made on pass #49 with negative results, i.e. no indication of separation of first capsule.
- f. 2 May: Recovery attempt made on pass #64, with no indication of separation of capsule. Decided that operational mission is considered terminated. The orbiting vehicle, henceforth will be used for further failure analysis and to exercise the deactivate/reactivate capability.
- g. 2 May -  
20 May: Additional attempts were made to command the recovery of the first capsule with negative results on passes 79, 95, 110, 112, 119, 126, 142, 174, 221, 246, 269, 271, 285, 286, 319, 333, 335, 340, 342, 347, 349, 356, 359, 363, and 365. No further attempt to command the vehicle was attempted.
- h. 18 May: An Air Force message from the Satellite Control Center, Sunnyvale, California, reported that Mission 1005 (labeled space track object #796) is predicted to reentry, based upon an assumed tumbling condition drag factor, on pass 450, 26 May, plus or minus 8 passes.

i. 25 May: An Air Force message from the Satellite Control Center, Sunnyvale, California, reported that Mission #1005 (space track object #796) is predicted to reenter on pass #452, ascending, on 26 May at 0411Z (confidence bracket time 0330Z to 0430Z) and impact in area 23.6N and 70.3W.



~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY COMMENTS OF MISSION 1005 RE-ENTRY

1. CORONA/J Mission #1005, according to space track reporting provided by the Satellite Control Center, Sunnyvale, California, decayed and entered the atmosphere on pass #452, 26 May.

a. At 0406Z a sighting from Maracaibo, Venezuela, reportedly observed five incendiary objects.

b. At 0413Z, the Moorestown, New Jersey, Spadats Station reported radar sightings of small residual objects on azimuth of 130 degrees at 2-8 degrees elevation.

c. Dew Line reported three radar "hits", object size unknown.

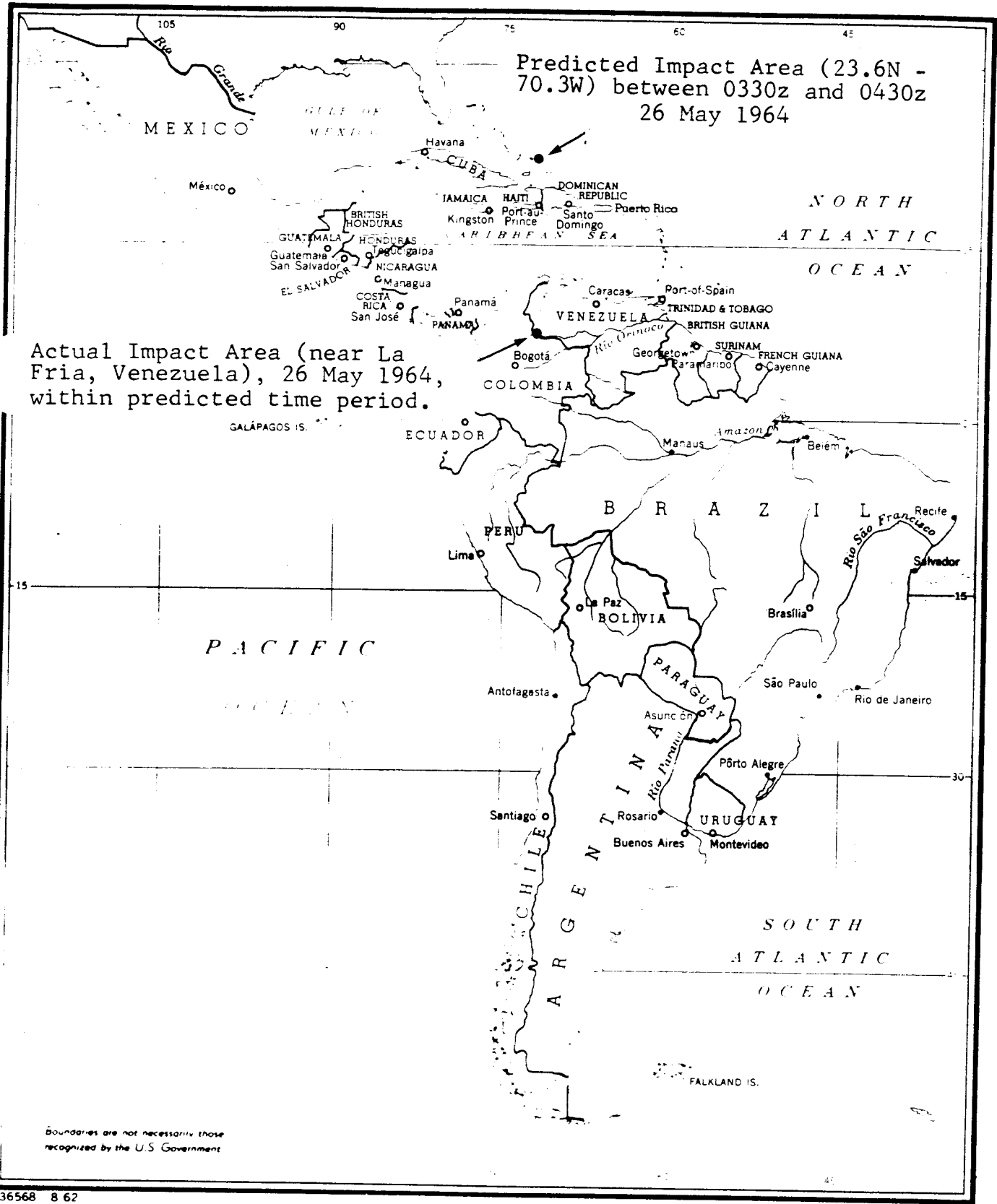
2. Due to a malfunction in Mission #1005, noted in attachment #a, recovery of the first capsule was attempted numerous times with no separation of the capsule effected. Recovery of a major portion of the first capsule from the Venezuelan Ministry of Defense leads to a conclusion that Mission #1005, normally decayed in orbit on pass #452, broke up on descent and impacted at least a capsule in Venezuela. The evidence thus far appears to indicate that the capsule

~~SECRET~~

did not deploy a parachute, but survived, though badly damaged, a free fall impact to earth. No evidence is available thus far concerning the impact area and ~~fate of the second capsule~~ and vehicle. Normally it has been assumed that Mission vehicles probably burn up and disintegrate upon decay and re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. It is probable that the ablative shield, which remained on the capsule during descent, protected the capsule and helped it survive re-entry.

Predicted Impact Area (23.6N - 70.3W) between 0330z and 0430z  
26 May 1964

Actual Impact Area (near La Fria, Venezuela), 26 May 1964,  
within predicted time period.



Boundaries are not necessarily those recognized by the U.S. Government

~~SECRET~~  
~~SECRET~~

LIST OF ITEMS MISSING FROM CAPSULE

PARACHUTE

TRANSMITTER

THRUST CONE

GOLD DISKS

PLASTIC SHELL

FLASHING LIGHT

PORTION OF AFLATOR

MOST OF FIBER GLASS PARTS OF PARACHUTE COVER

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

CHRONOLOGY OF OSA ACTIONS PURSUANT TO  
KNOWLEDGE OF A DOWNED "C" VEHICLE  
IN SOUTH AMERICA

5 August 1964

Between 1200 and 1300 hours a telephone call was received by [REDACTED], Security Staff, OSA, from [REDACTED], Security Representative to [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] asked whether Headquarters was aware that remains of a satellite vehicle had been found in South America. [REDACTED] answered in the negative whereupon [REDACTED] advised hearing of this by way of a morning staff meeting at [REDACTED]. Details were lacking. At this point, due to phone trouble, [REDACTED] was disconnected and Security Staff, OSA, couldn't immediately recontact him. Immediately, the Security Staff, OSA, contacted persons in OSA including [REDACTED], Acting Deputy Assistant Director, OSA, and Mr. John Parangosky, Deputy for Technology, OSA, who might have knowledge of the matter. They had no information.

When Security Staff, OSA, regained contact with [REDACTED] the latter stated his belief that information on the vehicle was available at offices of Colonel Worthman and [REDACTED] in NRO Staff. [REDACTED] felt that the possible launch involved was within the past six weeks. (Later checks by Security Staff, OSA, revealed that OSA had recovered everything launched in these six weeks.) The Deputy for Technology, OSA was in on the second conversation with [REDACTED]

Security Staff, OSA, checked with [REDACTED], Special Assistant for Liaison, OSA, and found that the subject of a downed vehicle was brought up by [REDACTED] at the DCI staff conference on 5 August where a Reuters dispatch on the subject was read.

At approximately 1430 [REDACTED], Deputy Chief, Security Staff, OSA, phoned [REDACTED], Security Officer, NRO, and queried him regarding the vehicle and any information pertaining to the matter. [REDACTED] said that a message had come into the Pentagon (NRO Staff) the preceding day (4 August) which indicated that a U. S. satellite had landed in Venezuela about two weeks earlier. A copy of the message to which [REDACTED] referred is attached. [REDACTED] indicated that reports of this type are not uncommon (one every two or three months) and this one at

~~SECRET~~

first was discounted. Later, said [REDACTED] they received information that caused them some concern (possibly Reuters dispatch).

[REDACTED] called back and indicated that, according to Gene Kiefer, Mr. McCone had brought up the topic at a USIB meeting and stated that as soon as there was more substantiating information he would send a technical team of people from NRO and CIA to investigate at the scene of the landing of the vehicle. Security Staff, OSA, reported to the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, the possibility of a downed DOD vehicle in Venezuela. The same information was reported to [REDACTED] Acting Deputy Assistant Director, OSA; [REDACTED] Deputy Director of Security and [REDACTED] Chief, Special Security Center. The Chief, Special Security Center, related that [REDACTED] had advised that morning that there was a possibility of a vehicle down in Venezuela.

It was later learned by Security Staff, OSA, that [REDACTED] had left three copies at the SSC of the original message to DIA dated 4 August. Learning this, the Security Staff, OSA, acquired one of the copies of this message and had it shown to Deputy for Technology, OSA; Assistant Director, OSA, and the Special Assistant for Liaison, OSA. Also complete information was given by phone to the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, and the Deputy Director of Security.

[REDACTED] called again to relate that he had just gotten the information that a new organization called TIP had been organized at NORAD last month for the purpose of pinpointing direction and impact location of "garbage" re-entering the atmosphere. These people were practicing in May and had stated that a piece of something had re-entered on 23 May and landed in almost the same spot as the present discovery. This information was given to Executive Officer, DD/S&T, Deputy Director of Security, Assistant Director, OSA, and Deputy for Technology, OSA.

At approximately 1730 [REDACTED] called and gave Security Staff, OSA, information that he had another message,

~~SECRET~~

this one from an attache in Caracas, Venezuela, stating that the attache had possession of one fragment of a space vehicle and had photographed another that was in the possession of a local newspaper. A local business man was quoted as saying it had landed two weeks before. A pilot and co-pilot of a civilian photomapping service were quoted as saying that, according to natives, it landed 24 November 1963. [REDACTED] also pointed out that [REDACTED] Air Force Intelligence, had asked for a word description of the vehicle.

Above was relayed to the Executive Officer, DD/S&T; Deputy Director of Security; Assistant Director, OSA; and the Special Assistant for Liaison, OSA.

6 August 1964

The Security Staff, OSA, received a call from [REDACTED] at approximately 0830 stating that he had a message strongly indicating that downed capsule was DOD's. [REDACTED] said he was sending message to OSA.

The information was relayed to EXO, DD/S&T; DDS; D/TECH/OSA, AD/OSA, and SAL/OSA.

Immediately upon receipt of the message at 1110, Security Staff, OSA, called [REDACTED], Manager, LMSC/AP facility and gave him the identifying data for the downed vehicle with the request that he determine if the equipment could be related to any of our vehicles. At this time, Security Staff, OSA, put DCI and DDCI on distribution for alltraffic on this incident. Within a half hour verification was received from [REDACTED] that the downed vehicle was J-8. This was subsequently identified as the "A" Buckett of Mission 1005, launched on 27 April with the first recovery attempt made on 1 May on the 49th revolution. This recovery effort failed. [REDACTED] was requested to verify this information by cable.

Above information immediately given via phone by Security Staff, OSA, to AD/OSA, SAL/OSA, EXO, DD/S&T, DD Security, Chief, SSC and [REDACTED] in NRO.

In talking to [REDACTED] permission of the NRO was solicited and later received to put all message traffic to and from Caracas regarding this problem in CIA channels for reasons of security and expeditious handling.

Another call was then made to the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, suggesting that we prepare a message to Chief of Station, Caracas, telling him what he had in his area, and asking for his help, and asking him to put messages on this subject in the OSA channel. EXO, DD/S&T, asked Security Staff, OSA, to prepare the message and coordinate with him.

At approximately 1030 when it was discovered by Security Staff, OSA, that there had been further news articles in addition to the Reuters dispatch, it was recommended to [REDACTED] that he recommend to the NRO a meeting of the ICPC group to discuss the security and cover ramifications of the incident. [REDACTED] later advised that he had made recommendation to [REDACTED] who made same to Dr. McMillan. Dr. McMillan reportedly decided not to call such a meeting then, since Mr. McCone had stated the preceding day in a USIB meeting that he would send a technical team upon receipt of more information.

At approximately 1400 [REDACTED] called Security Staff, OSA, to say that [REDACTED] had suggested that even though Dr. McMillan was not going to call a meeting of the contingency group that maybe a meeting should be called of lower level personnel to decide what had to be done. Security Staff, OSA, reminded [REDACTED] that Dr. McMillan was the one who had the responsibility to call the meeting; and if someone was to have a meeting, OSA had its candidate to attend: [REDACTED] Special Assistant for Liaison, OSA.

[REDACTED] later called and left a message for Security Staff, OSA, asking, "Were we going to have a meeting." This call was later returned and [REDACTED] was told by Security Staff, OSA, that if they called a meeting we would send a representative.

At approximately 1530 a message to Chief of Station, Caracas, giving the latter instructions was prepared by Security Staff, OSA, and coordinated with Deputy for Technology, OSA, and Acting Deputy Assistant Director, OSA, and



was handcarried to the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, where it was left for his coordination and release.

At 1900 the Assistant Director of OSA attempted to call the DD/S&T and the EXO, DD/S&T, and found them unavailable.

At approximately 1815 Deputy Chief, Security Staff, OSA, received a call from the EXO, DD/S&T, stating that there were more ramifications (political) to the problem, and the DD/S&T had indicated that he wasn't going to sign the message that night.

The Deputy Chief, Security Staff, OSA, upon hearing of the return of the Assistant Director, OSA, went to him and pointed out the problem and urgency of the situation in light of press interest and non-witting people in Caracas.

In the interim at approximately 1500 Security Staff, OSA, requested Chief, Commo, OSA, to prepare a pilot message to the Commo people in Caracas, and to the Chief of Station outlining the commo procedures for handling CORONA traffic. This message went out at approximately 1600.

7 August 1964

At approximately 1000 the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, called Security Staff, OSA, and requested that a team be selected to include a technical man from OSA and the technical man from NRO who had been previously identified and a Security man from OSA who had previously been identified. The Deputy Chief, Security Staff, OSA, was asked to rewrite the message to Chief of Station, Caracas, to include the team members by name. The Executive Officer asked that the new draft be sent to him for coordination.

The new message was prepared and coordinated in OSA with the Deputy for Technology and the Special Assistant for Liaison, and the Executive Officer, DD/S&T, at approximately 1200. The latter coordinated, and it was sent to the Security Officer, DD/P, at approximately 1245.

~~SECRET~~

Page 6

It was returned to OSA at approximately 1600 after going to the DD/P office who sent it to the Deputy Chief/WH. It was immediately released in OSA and went out at 1625.

~~SECRET~~

ROUTE	
1	9
2	10
3	11
4	12
5	13
6	14
7	15
8	16

~~SECRET~~

DATE 2129Z 09 AUG 64

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : CARACAS

ACTION:

INFO :

OSA 1 15

TOR: 2145 Z 09 AUG 64

ROUTING SLIP	

PRIORITY	

TO PRIORITY [REDACTED]

INFO

CITE [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] SECUR

1. PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION BY TEAM OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF RE-ENTERED CAPSULE SHOWS THAT

- A. THE ABLATION SHIELD REMAINED WITH THE CAPSULE.
- B. THE PYRO DISCONNECT PLUG WAS NOT ACTIVATED.
- C. FILM IS WELL COOKED.
- D. IMPACT AND FARMERS HAVE PROBABLY WELL REDUCED INTERNAL EQUIPMENT TO JUNK.

2. [REDACTED] REQUESTS THAT THIS MESSAGE AND SUBSEQUENT BE PASSED TO [REDACTED]

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE 1405Z 11 AUG 64

~~SECRET~~

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : CARACAS

ACTION:

INFO :

ROUTING	INT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

IMMEDIATE

TOR/ 1613Z 11 AUG 64

TO IMMEDIATE

INFO

CITE

CORONA SECUR

EYES ONLY

SUBJECT SECURITY ASSESSMENT REPORT

1. A VIEW OF CAPSULE CLEARLY SHOWS ONE NEARLY COMPLETE SPOOL OF FILM. SECOND SPOOL ONLY PARTIALLY FILLED. THE AMOUNT COULD INDICATE THAT AN OPERATIONAL MSN WAS BEING PERFORMED AS OPPOSED TO EXPERIMENTAL. BOTH WATERSEALS, TOGETHER WITH LARGE FRAGMENTS OF CAPSULE COVER ALSO SURVIVED. BELIEVE THAT MOST OF FILM HAS BEEN RETURNED. PROBABILITY THAT SOME FILM RETAINED BY NATIVES AND POSSIBLY BY HOST GOVT, HOWEVER FILM IS VERY BADLY DAMAGED AND NOT BELIEVED TO BE OF ANY SIGNIFICANT VALUE.

2. A LARGE NUMBER OF PHOTOGRAPHS OF CAPSULE HAVE BEEN TAKEN BY A COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHER IN SAN CRISTOBAL. THESE, INCLUDING THE NEGATIVES, ARE IN POSSESSION OF CORONA SECUR. PRESUMABLY THE HOST GOVT HAS ALSO TAKEN PICTURES. IT REPORTED THAT ONE OF THIS LOCAL NEWS-PAPERS HAD LARGE FILE OF PHOTOS.

3. CAPSULE AND CONTENTS HAVE BEEN VIEWED BY UNKNOWN, BUT

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

[REDACTED]

PRESUMABLY LARGE NUMBER OF NATIVES AND MOST GOVT OFFICIALS FROM MILPOL, ARMY G-2, MIN OF DEFENSE, ET AL.

4. HAVE BEEN ADVISED THAT ALL LEVELS OF GOVT HERE HEAVILY PENETRATED BY CP AND THAT IT GOOD PROBABILITY THAT PHOTOS AND REPORTS RE CAPSULE IN POSSESSION OF MOST GOVT SUBJ TO INSPECTION OR APPROPRIATION.

5. MUST THEREFORE CONCLUDE THAT:

A. PHOTOS AND VISUAL INSPECTION OF CAPSULE REMAINS WILL CONFIRM US PARTICIPATION IN SATELLITE PHOTO RECON EFFORT.

B. ACCESS TO THE EQUIPMENT AND PHOTOS WOULD PROBABLY ALLOW AN ASTUTE TECHNICAL OBSERVER TO DETERMINE THE TECHNIQUES EMPLOYED FOR RECOVERY, PARTICULARLY THE FACT THAT THE CAMERA SYSTEM IS A SEPARATE ITEM WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT BE RECOVERED INDEPENDENTLY.

C. POSSIBILITY THAT WITH INFORMATION AVAILABLE HERE IN PUBLIC DOMAIN RE POINT OF IMPACT AND TIME OF ENTRY COMPOSED TO KNOWN LAUNCH SCHEDULE AND ORBITS, A DEDUCTION COULD BE MADE AS TO WHERE AND WHEN THIS VEHICLE HAD BEEN LAUNCHED.

END OF MSG



~~SECRET~~

PAGE TWO

MSN. LA FRIA IS APPROX 500 MILES SW OF CARACAS IN A REMOTE REGION OF THE ANDES. INFORMATION WAS REC'D BY EMBASSY SOURCES THAT A VENEZUELAN PILOT [REDACTED] EMPLOYED BY A COMMERCIAL AERIAL MAPPING SERVICE HAD RETURNED FROM LA FRIA WITH THE CAPSULE. THIS WAS SUBSEQUENTLY FOUND TO BE UNTRUE. [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] ENDEAVORED TO CONTACT [REDACTED] WITHOUT SUCCESS. ASCERTAINED, HOWEVER, THAT CAPSULE NOT RETURNED TO CARACAS.

4 AUGUST 1964:

[REDACTED] CONTACTED [REDACTED] WHO STATED HE AND HIS CREW, [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] HAD VIEWED THE CAPSULE AT LA FRIA.

HE PRODUCED A FRAGMENT WHICH WAS GIVEN TO [REDACTED] [REDACTED] ACCOMPANIED BY [REDACTED] FLEW TO LA FRIA. CONTACT WAS MADE WITH DE DIGEPOL (POLITICAL POLICE) WHO ADVISED

THAT THE CAPSULE HAD BEEN SENT TO SAN CRISTOBAL TO THE LOCAL ARMY HQTRS. THE CAPSULE WAS VIEWED THERE AND NEGOTIATIONS CONDUCTED TO RELEASE THE CAPSULE TO [REDACTED] DELAYS WERE ENCOUNTERED REQUIRING [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] TO REMAIN OVERNITE.

5 AUGUST 1964:

[REDACTED] WAS ADVISED BY THE LOCAL VENEZUELAN ARMY COMDR THAT HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO SEND THE CAPSULE TO G-2, ARMY HQTRS, CARACAS. A VENEZUELAN AIRCRAFT FLEW THE CAPSULE TO CARACAS THAT AFTERNOON AND [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] RETURNED IN THEIR AIRCRAFT.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~

PAGE THREE

[REDACTED]  
DURING PERIOD 4-5 AUGUST LOCAL PRESS CONTACTED EMBASSY OFFICIALS FOR COMMENT AND CONFIRMATION OF OBJECT AS BEING U.S. NEWSPAPERS CARRYING THE STORY VARIED IN COVERAGE FROM MODERATE TO LENGTHY. SOME ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOGRAPHS. GUARDED ORAL COMMENTS WERE MADE BY EMBASSY. [REDACTED] CHARGE D° AFFAIRES INFORMALLY INQUIRED OF THE HOST GOVT FOR RETURN OF THE CAPSULE. HE WAS PROMISED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO DIFFICULTY AND THAT RETURN WOULD PROBABLY BE MADE ON FRIDAY.

6 AUGUST: 1964:

EMBASSY SOURCES INFORMED THAT THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE HAD ORDERED THE ARMY TO TRANSFER THE CAPSULE TO HIS OFFICE PENDING FINAL DISPOSITION. IT REMAINED WITH THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE UNTIL 10 AUGUST.

7 AUGUST 1964:

EMBASSY ADVISED THAT CAPSULE WOULD BE RETURNED ON 10 AUGUST. [REDACTED] AIR ATTACHE, WHO HAD BEEN MAKING PREVIOUS EFFORT

TO RETRIEVE THE CAPSULE WAS DESIGNATED OFFICIAL RECIPIENT.

8 AUGUST 1964:

HQTRS TEAM ARRIVED CARACAS AND RECEIVED INITIAL STATUS RPT FROM [REDACTED] COS.

9 AUGUST 1964

HQTRS TEAM CONFERRED WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] [REDACTED] AND REVIEWED SITUATION. PHOTOS WERE VIEWED, NEWS ACCT

ASSESSED, AND PLANS FORMULATED.

10 AUGUST 1964:

~~SECRET~~



[REDACTED]  
HQTRS TEAM CONFERRED WITH [REDACTED] CHARGE D'AFFAIRS AND BRIEFED HIM ON PROGRAM AND INFORMATION RELATED TO INCIDENT. ASSESSMENT RPTS PREPARED AND PASSED TO HQTRS. CAPSULE WAS TURNED OVER TO [REDACTED] AND RETURNED TO EMBASSY IN LATE AFTERNOON. AND A PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION MADE.

IT WAS IMMEDIATELY NOTED THAT THE TRANSMITTER PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED IN PHOTOS OF CAPSULE AND WHICH HAD BORNE "SECRET" MARKINGS WAS MISSING AND BELIEVED TO BE RETAINED BY HOST GOVT.

11 AUGUST 1964:

CAPSULE PERPARED FOR SHIPMENT. FOLLOW-UP PLANS DISCUSSED WITH [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

PART II:

THE FOLLOWING FOREIGN NATIONALS HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED AS HAVING HAD ACCESS TO THE CAPSULE:

[REDACTED] - COLUMBIAN CITIZEN- COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHER- SAN CRISTOBAL

[REDACTED] VENEZUELAN CITIZEN-PILOT-AERIAL MAPPING SERVICE

[REDACTED] VENEZUELAN CITIZEN-CO-PILOT-AERIAL MAPPING SERVIC

[REDACTED] VENEZUELAN CITIZEN-CREW MEMBER-AERIAL MAPPING SERVICE

[REDACTED] AGE 14-FARMER-LA FRIA

[REDACTED] AGE 40-FARMER LA FRIA

[REDACTED] FARMER-LA FRIA

[REDACTED] COLUMBIAN CITIZEN-IDENT [REDACTED] RESIDENT OF GUARAMITO

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

PAGE FIVE

[REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] BELIEVED TO BE RESIDENTS OF LA FRIA.

PART III:

FYI: ON FINDING THE CAPSULE IT IS REPORTED THAT THE NATIVES WERE ATTRACTED BY THE GOLD SURFACE OF THE CAPSULE AND PILFERED THE CONTENTS IN SEARCH OF GOLD. THE GOLD TEST DISCS WERE APPARENTLY FOUND AND THIS ENCOURAGED THEM IN THEIR EFFORTS TO HACK AT THE CAPSULE. OPINION HERE HOWEVER THAT MOST OF DAMAGE CAUSED BY IMPACT RATHER THAN BY NATIVE ACTIONS.

END OF MSG

~~SECRET~~

DATE 2000Z 9 AUG 64

~~SECRET~~

ROUTING	
1	9
2	10
3	11
4	12
5	13
6	14
7	15
8	16

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : CARACAS

ACTION:

INFO :

TOR 2243Z 9 AUG 64

ROUTING	INT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

PRIORITY

Acad  
[Redacted]

OS

TO PRIORITY [Redacted] INFO [Redacted] CITE [Redacted]  
[Redacted] CORONA SECUR

SUBJECT: SITUATION REPORT # /

1. ON ARRIVAL [Redacted] RECD INITIAL BRIEFING OR EVENTS FROM COS. THIS FOLLOWED BY MORE DETAILED ACCOUNT ON 9 AUGUST TOGETHER WITH CONFERENCE WITH AIR ATTACHE AND ASST ARMY ATTACHE. HAVE RECD BENEFIT OF VIEWING AVAILABLE NEWS COVERAGE AND PHOTOS OF VEHICLE.

2. INCIDENT HAS BEEN SUBJECT OF COVERAGE IN BOTH SAN CRISTOBAL AND CARACAS. NEWS ACCOUNT IN SAN CRISTOBAL PAPER REPORTEDLY ACCOMPANIED BY PHOTOS OF CAPSULE. SAN CRISTOBAL IS PROVINCIAL NEW PAPER IN INTERIOR VENEZUELA. STORIES BEGAN APPEARANCE ON 4 AUGUST THROUGH 5 AUGUST. NEWSPAPER REPRODUCTION OF PHOTOS REPORTED TO BE POOR OF QUALITY AND LACKING IN DETAIL HOWEVER PRINTS OF PHOTO NOW IN POSSESSION ATTACHE VERY CLEAR. CARACAS PRESS CARRIED ONE PHOTOGRAPH OF TEST DISK BELIEVED TO BE GOLD WAFER.

3. CONTENT OF NEWS ACCOUNTS INDICATE STORY CARRIED HIGH IN NEWS

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

[Redacted]

~~SECRET~~

PAGE TWO

[REDACTED]

WORTHINESS BUT LESS THAN SENSATIONAL. AFTER INITIAL PUBLICITY, NEW VALUE CONSIDERABLY LESSEned AND NO MENTION IN PAPER SINCE 5 AUGUST. THERE HAS BEEN NO ATTEMPT TO SUPPRESS NEWS BY STAFF HERE. LOCAL RADIO STATION COVERED EVENT IN SIMILAR MANNER. THE MOST COMPREHENSIVE STORY APPEARED IN THE "EL NACIONAL" DTD 4 AUGUST. IT STATED THAT THE VEHICLE CONTAINED FILM BUT NO REFERENCE MADE TO CONNECT WITH RECONNAISSANCE EFFORT TONE OF ARTICLE INFERRED THAT VEHICLE WAS TYPE USED FOR SPACE TESTS.

4. OPINION HERE THAT INCIDENT CLOSED PUBLICLY WITH ONLY POSSIBLE RENEWAL OF INTEREST OCCURING WHEN CAPSULE RETURNED BY MINISTRY OF DEFENSE TO AIR ATTACHE. THIS NOW EXPECTED TO BE 10 AUGUST. MATTER BEING HANDLED IN LOCAL BY WITTING STAFF HERE AND NO ADDITIONAL PUBLICITY EXPECTED. NO EVIDENCE THAT INCIDENT HAS BEEN EXPLOITED POLITICALLY BY LOCAL CP OR HAS INITIATED UNDUE INTEREST OF SOV BLOC REPS CARA.

5. RECOMMEND THAT SUITABLE EXPLANATION BE PROVIDED FOR TRANSMISSION TO HOST MINISTER OF DEFENSE. STAFF HERE INDICATING IGNORANCE OF VEHICLES PURPOSE PENDING COMPLETE EXAMINATION.

6. NEWSPAPER CLIPPINGS AND PHOTOS WILL BE FORWARDED SOONEST. CHRONOLOGY OF SIGNIFICANT EVENTS NOW IN PREPARATION AND WILL FOLLOW.

END OF MSG

~~SECRET~~

DATE 1731Z 13 AUG 64

~~SECRET~~



TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : CANADA

ACTION:

INFO:

ROUTING	INT
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

PRIORITY

TO 1731Z 13 AUG 64



Cy



TO : [REDACTED]

INFO : PRIORITY [REDACTED]

CITE [REDACTED]

URGENT SECUR

REPORT FROM [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED]

1. [REDACTED] INITIATING FURTHER ACTION TO EVALUATE POSSIBLE SIGHTING OF SECOND CAPSULE ENTRY ABOUT 200 MILES N.E. OF IMPACT POINT.

2. NO INDICATION YET OF S/I CASSETTE. WAS THERE ONE IN [REDACTED]?

3. [REDACTED] RE-ENTRY SOUTH TO NORTH. CONFIRM AND ADVISE.

4. PARACHUTE RISER IN GOOD SHAPE, (PARACHUTE NOT AVAILABLE YET), HEAT SENSORS ON AFT END CAPSULE NORMAL (ABOUT 200 DEGREES F)

5. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] BRITTLE, DISCOLORED (REDDISH)

6. [REDACTED] ONLY AFT SECTION [REDACTED] OBSERVED TO DATE AS WE HAVE

7. [REDACTED] [REDACTED] OF SYSTEMS WILL PREVENT LOCAL

8. [REDACTED]

9. [REDACTED] STATION (SPADIS, SPITSONIAN?) MAY HAVE OBSERVED [REDACTED] OR [REDACTED] ENTRIES. CHECK AND ADVISE.

10. ONLY AFT SECTION OF ABLATOR (ABOUT 10 INCHES) NOW WITH

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification



~~SECRET~~

[REDACTED] PAGE TWO

SYSTEM.

7. BUCKET BADLY DEFORMED, CLOSELY FITTING ONE FULL SPOOL (OTHER SPOOL ALMOST EMPTY). IS LOW FILLING EXPECTED FROM T/M REPORTS?

8. AFT PARACHUTE COVER FRAME APPEARS IN PHOTOGRAPHS OF CAPSULE PARTS.

9. PLEASE PASS TO [REDACTED]

END OF MSG

[REDACTED]

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

ROUTING

DATE 1405Z 11 AUG 1964

~~SECRET~~

1		9
2		10
3		11
4		12
5		13
6		14
7		15
8		16

TO : DIRECTOR

FROM : CARACAS

ACTION:

INFO :

*Passed* [Redacted]

TOP 1720Z 11 AUG 1964

TO PRIORITY [Redacted]

INFO

CITE [Redacted]

CORONA SECUR

REPORT NBR 3

1. MAJOR PORTIONS OF SYSTEM APPEAR TO BE PRESENT.
2. S/I CASSETTE IN BUCKET.
3. IMPACT FORCE CRUSHED BUCKET- AXIAL DIMENSION ABOUT TWO THIRDS ORIGINAL. PARACHUTE COVER APPARENTLY BROKEN BY DRIVING SPOOLS AGAINST IT. ONE SPOOL LIGHTLY LOADED AT IMPACT, OTHER ALMOST FULL. WILL NOT ATTEMPT TO DISSEMBLE SPOOL FLANGES TWISTED AND BENT, PROBABLY ALMOST ALL FILM BEYOND SALVAGE.
4. SOME INTERNAL ELECTRONIC PACKAGE DAMAGED BY FORCIBLE ENTRY AFTER DISCOVERY.
5. ~~X~~TRA VISIBLE IN SOME PHOTOS IS MISSING. WE DO NOT FEEL ISSUE SHOULD BE MADE NOW. NEED IS EXTREMELY CRITICAL, REPRESENTATION COULD BE MADE TO GOV.
6. PARACHUTE NOT AVAILABLE NOW. IT IS AT SAN CRISTOBAL OR LA FRIA. WILL NOT MAKE EFFORT TO RECLAIM UNLESS NEED IS CONSIDERED MANDATORY.
7. FOLLOWING QUESTIONS HAVE BEEN GIVEN TO ATTACHE FOR FOLLOW

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
downgrading and  
declassification

(CONT)

~~SECRET~~

UP INVESTIGATIONS NEXT WEEK.

1. WAS A COVER OVER PARACHUTE AT TIME OF DISCOVERY
2. ANY SIGN OF A CONE OR ROCKET MOTOR.

    CONE GREENISH MAGNESIUM SHEET METAL CONE WITH MANY HOLES ABOUT 26 IN-28IN BASE DIA, 12 IN HIGH AND ABOUT 8IN DIA HOLE IN TOP FACE.

    MOTOR STEEL CASE, ABOUT 8IN DIA, SPHERICAL END, AND NOZZLE ON OPPOSITE END. STEEL.

3. WAS THE SECTION OF PLASTIC SHELL FOUND (30IN DIA BY 10 IN LONG), THE ONLY PART FOUND. IS THERE ANY SIGN OF THE RESIDUE, WHICH MIGHT HAVE THE FORM OF A HEMISPHERICAL DISH.

4. IS THE PARACHUTE BURNED OR CHARRED AT ALL.

5. WAS METAL BUCKET DENTED AS NOW AT TIME OF DISCOVERY;

HOW MUCH OF THE DENTING AND FORMING WAS DONE DURING THE ATTEMPTS TO INVESTIGATE.

6. WHAT IS CHARACTERISTICS OF THE VEG<sup>ET</sup>ATION AND SOIL AT POINT OF IMPACT. ANY INDICATION OF STRIKING TREES OR SHRUBS BEFORE HITTING GROUND. HOW DEEP DID IT PENETRATE THE GROUND. ANY SIGN OF HEATING OF GROUND BY OBJECT.

7. WHAT WAS POSITION OF CAPSULE ON DISCOVERY

8. DOES [REDACTED] OR OTHERS HAVE ANY SERIAL PHOTOS OF LOCALE OF FIND.

9. WHERE IS CAPSULE WERE COINS FOUND.

8. PARACHUTE COVER EJECTION EXPLOSIVE PISTONS HAD NOT BEEN FIRED.

9. NO SIGN OF THRUST CONE OR RTRO<sup>E</sup>-ROCKET.

10. NO SIGN OF EXCESS HEATING ON PARACHUTE COVER.

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~



DATE 1845Z 11 AUG 64

~~SECRET~~



TO : DIRECTOR  
FROM : CARACAS  
ACTION:  
INFO :

ROUTING INT  
[Routing slip grid with lines and some markings]

ROUTINE

[Redacted]  
TOR: 1928Z 11 AUG 64



TO [Redacted] INFO CORONA SECUR

CITE [Redacted]

REPORT NBR 4 - FINAL TWX TECH REPORT.

1. ALL RECOVERED MATERIAL PACKED. AFT RING OF ABLATOR SAWN IN HALF FOR PACKING.
2. SMALL PIECE OF DAMAGED FILM (REMOVED BY [Redacted] RETAINED FOR DELIVERY TO HDQTRS.
3. ADVISE WEST COAST TO SHIP ALL FILM, INCLUDING PACKAGE OF LOOSE PIECES, TO [Redacted] FOR ASSAY.
4. LIST OF ITEMS KNOWN TO BE MISSING
  - A. PARACHUTE, IN HANDS OF GOVT AT LA FRIA OR SANCRISTOBAL.
  - B. FLASHING LIGHT, LOCATION UNKNOWN
  - C. TRANSMITTER (PHOTOGRAPHED WHILE IN HANDS OF HOST)
  - D. PORTION OF ABLATOR. (NOSE PIECE, AFT RING, AND MISC FRAGMENTS SHIPPED)
  - E. MOST OF FIBERGLASS PARTS OF PARACHUTE COVER.
  - F. THRUST CONE
  - G. ROCKET MOTOR
  - H. MOST OF GOLD DISCS, RETAINED BY HOST NATIONALS. ONE DISC RETURNED.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

~~SECRET~~

PAGE TWO

5. U.S. COINS MAY HAVE BEEN ETCHED OR TREATED BY HOST DURING THEIR INVESTIGATIONS.

6. GOOD LUCK TO ANALYSIS GROUP. WE WILL RETURN NEXT AVAILABLE FLIGHT.

7. ADVISE IF ANY FURTHER ACTIONS BY US ARE NEEDED, OR IF ADDITIONAL DETAILS SHOULD BE FORWARDED VIA CABLE.

END OF MSG

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~  
CONFIDENTIAL

Copy [redacted]

8 - SEP 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: CONFIDENTIAL Mission 1005 Incident

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. CONFIDENTIAL Mission 1005 was launched into orbit on 27 April. Telemetry data two days later indicated a malfunction had occurred. Numerous attempts at recovery during 1-20 May were unsuccessful due to the malfunction and after 20 May, no further attempts were made to command the vehicle.

3. On 5 August our Office of Special Activities received word that a satellite capsule had been recovered from near the Colombia-Venezuela border at La Fria, 200 miles south of Caracas in a remote region of the Andes. The capsule was turned over to the Embassy after being in the custody of Venezuelan authorities for about 10 days. It was examined by a Headquarters team sent to Caracas before being returned to the West Coast by our Security Officer.

4. For information, it should be noted that on Thursday, August 13, 1964, a request was made by CIA to the NRO to convene a committee to coordinate the NRO's contingency plan for the eventuality of a satellite capsule recovery. The NRO's contingency plan and system responsibility for responding to any news media queries which might arise. The request was made in accordance with the contingency plan prepared and agreed to by all interested agencies to cope with just such a situation. During the period from 6-12 August, at least a half dozen additional requests were made to NRO to convene the committee;

5. In view of the NRO's coordination and... of action, the above... cable instructions...

[redacted]  
[redacted]

SUBJECT: CORONA Mission 1995 Incident

The Director is directed to acquire the capsule and return it to the CIA/NSA office in Washington. This directly counter-voids the instructions to the CIA/NSA team already on the scene and requires the return of the capsule to LMSC on the 10th day. The instructions subsequently had

5. In addition, the confusion, conflicting instructions, and the lack of communication in accomplishing our objectives could have been avoided if the Contingency Planning Committee had been aware of the situation with the existing ground policy. In addition, the lack of information, the ICRS finally not being aware of the problem.

6. The vehicle was seen by a large number of Venezuelans, including military police, G-3, and the host government as well as a photographer and a local newspaper. It is believed a capsule transmitter which had borne "Secret" markings was removed by the host government and retained by it. It must be assumed that due to close visual observation a number of people are aware that this was a reconnaissance vehicle of some sort.

7. A summary report is being developed and will be available in the next few days of our investigation.

A D WHEELON

ALBERT D. WHEELON  
Deputy Director  
for  
Science and Technology

~~SECRET~~  
CORONA

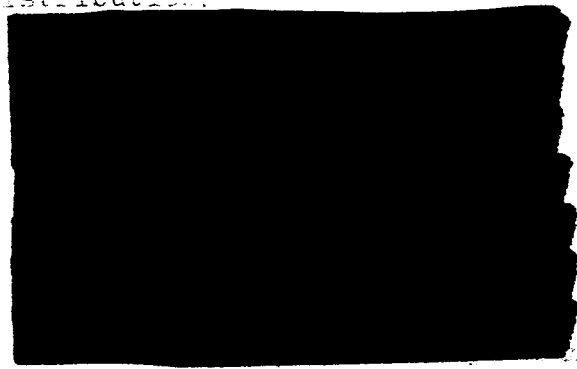


SUBJECT: CORONA Mission 1003 Incident

Attachments:

- Summary of Significant Operations  
Report of Mission #1003
- Summary of Mission 1003 Re-entry
- Part of [redacted] Capsule

Distribution:



~~SECRET~~

XERO  
COPY

~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY CHRONOLOGY SIGNIFICANT OPERATIONS REPORTING DURING  
MISSION #1005

---

1964

- a. 27 April: CORONA/J Mission #1005 launched and an orbit verified.
- b. 29 April: Telemetry data evaluation available indicated malfunction (an "electrical open" had occurred in pyro distribution plug as a result of a short elsewhere). Normal recovery which depends on pyro power for certain functions probably adversely affected.
- c. 1-20 May: Recovery attempts unsuccessful. No further attempts made after 20 May to command vehicle.
- d. 25 May: An Air Force message from Satellite Control Center, Sunnyvale, California, reported that Mission #1005 is predicted\* to reenter on pass #452, based on an assumed tumbling condition drag factor on 26 May at 0411Z and impact in the Caribbean area 23.6N and 70.3W.

\*Note: This prediction, without benefit of telemetry and command control of the vehicle but based on certain operational assumptions, offered a confidence factor of about one-half revolution. Actual impact area was one of several broad possibilities

ATTACHMENT A

~~SECRET~~

1550  
0550

~~SECRET~~

SUMMARY COMMENTS OF MISSION 1005 RE-ENTRY

1. CORONA/J Mission #1005, according to space track reporting provided by the Satellite Control Center, Sunnyvale, California, decayed and entered the atmosphere on pass #452, 26 May.

a. At 0406Z a sighting from Maracaibo, Venezuela, reportedly observed five incendiary objects.

b. At 0413Z, the Moorestown, New Jersey, Spadats Station reported radar sightings of small residual objects on azimuth of 130 degrees at 2-8 degrees elevation.

c. Dew Line reported three radar "hits," object size unknown.

2. Due to a malfunction in Mission #1005, noted in attachment A, recovery of the first capsule was attempted numerous times with no separation of the capsule effected. Recovery of a major portion of the first capsule from the Venezuelan Ministry of Defense leads to a conclusion that Mission #1005, normally decayed in orbit on pass #452, broke up on descent and impacted at least a capsule in Venezuela. The evidence thus far appears to indicate that the capsule did not deploy a parachute, but survived, though badly damaged, a free fall impact to earth. No evidence is available thus far concerning the impact area and fate of the second capsule and vehicle. Normally, it has been assumed that Mission vehicles probably burn up and disintegrate upon decay and re-entry into the earth's atmosphere. It is probable that the ablative shield, which remained on the capsule during descent, protected the capsule and helped it survive re-entry.

ATTACHMENT B

~~SECRET~~

XERO  
COPY

~~SECRET~~

LIST OF ITEMS MISSING FROM CAPSULE

Parachute  
Transmitter  
Thrust Cone  
Gold Disks  
Plastic Shell  
Landing Light  
Portion of Ablator  
Most of Fiber Glass Parts of Parachute Cover

ATTACHMENT C

~~SECRET~~

XERO COPY

XERO COPY

XERO COPY