

~~TOP SECRET~~



1053

~~TOP SECRET~~ 281916Z

CORONA-J
REF [REDACTED]
ATTN: [REDACTED]
FROM: WEBB

1. DO NOT UNDERSTAND [REDACTED] CONCERN OVER ACTIONS TAKEN WITH J-3 AFTER ABORTIVE LAUNCH ATTEMPT. WHEN DECISION WAS FINALLY MADE TO RETURN INSTRUMENT TO L-BUILDING, INSPECT FOR WATER DAMAGE AND DRY OUT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE, I INSTRUCTED AP TO HAVE L-BLDG PERSONNEL CUT AND REMOVE FILM THREADED THROUGH ROLLERS AND RAILS IF WATER WAS PRESENT. I DID NOT WANT FILM STICKING TO ROLLERS, ETC. SINCE I HAD PREVIOUSLY ACCEPTED J-3 FOR GOVERNMENT, IT WAS NO LONGER [REDACTED] LIABILITY. HAD [REDACTED] BEEN IN POSITION TO RESPOND WITH THE SWIFTESS I DEEMED NECESSARY, THEY WOULD CERTAINLY HAVE HAD REPRESENTATION THERE. [REDACTED] PERSONNEL DID NOT ARRIVE BASE UNTIL SEVERAL HOURS AFTER J-3 HAD BEEN RETURNED TO L-BUILDING. HAVING CONSIDERABLE KNOWLEDGE OF PROFICIENCY OF L-BUILDING PERSONNEL I WAS CONFIDENT THEY COULD DO WORK REQUESTED WITHOUT FURTHER DAMAGE TO INSTRUMENT. SUBSEQUENT INSPECTION BY [REDACTED] PERSONNEL CONFIRMS NO DAMAGE DUE TO FILM REMOVAL FROM RAILS AND ROLLERS.

2. I HAVE TALKED TO [REDACTED] LOCALLY AND INFORMED THEM THAT J-3 WILL BE RETURNED TO CONTRACTOR FOR REWORK. THEY HAVE BEEN ADVISED TO ESTIMATE COST ON BASIS OF INSTRUMENT CONDITION AS THEY FIND IT THEN. BETWEEN TIME I SIGNED DD FORM 250 AND TIME [REDACTED] INSTRUMENT BACK (27 JAN 64) J-3 WAS A GOVERNMENT LIABILITY.

3. [REDACTED] COULD HAVE BROUGHT MATTER UP AT SE MEETING WITHOUT CAUSING A JURISDICTIONAL BATTLE. I WOULD HAVE QUELLED ANY CONTROVERSY BY REMINDING COMBATANTS THAT AT THE TIME J-3 BELONGED TO GOVERNMENT.

4. DO NOT KNOW WHY IT TOOK [REDACTED] PERSONNEL SO LONG TO GET DOWN TO L-BUILDING. [REDACTED] AND [REDACTED] DID GO ON TUESDAY 22: [REDACTED] AP, ARRIVED BEFORE [REDACTED] IF [REDACTED] DEEPLY CONCERNED THEY MIGHT DO WELL TO ASK WHERE THEIR BASE RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE WAS DURING THIS TIME. FRANKLY, IT DID NOT OCCUR TO ME THAT HE WOULD NOT BE THERE. I WOULD HAVE ISSUED SAME INSTRUCTIONS, REGARDLESS. SINCE LOSS OF ACTIVE SE ELEMENT AT AP INFORMATION CHANNELS HAVE BECOME SOMEWHAT CONSTIPATED. CREDIT THIS FOR LACK OF TIMELY RESPONSE BY THOSE WHO MUST DEPEND UPON OTHERS FOR INFORMATION. THIS INCLUDES ME. INTEND TO DISCUSS THIS MORE FULLY IN SUBSEQUENT MESSAGE.

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Declassified and Released by the NRC

In Accordance with E.O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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