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Payload Damage During Test in HIVOS Chamber

1. During the loss of vacuum in the HIVOS chamber on 2 September 1964 due to the breaking of the sightglass on diffusion pump #8, considerable oil was deposited on the internal surfaces of the payload undergoing test. Preliminary investigation indicates the following effects:
 - a. The deposits will be difficult to remove.
 - b. Repetition of the test will be necessary.
 - c. Considerable effort will be needed to determine the effect of the oil on internal components.
 - d. Complete remanufacturing of payload may be necessary.
 - e. Oil deposit may inhibit paint adhesion on external surfaces.

At the minimum, it is anticipated that a one- to two-week loss in scheduled time will result. Total cost of this loss of vacuum will not be known until a full evaluation has been made.

2. In view of the considerable investment in time and money required to bring a payload to the stage where it can be thermal-altitude tested, it is strongly requested that your procedures and practices be reviewed, that every effort be made to ensure that such occurrences are not repeated, and that this organization be advised of action taken in this respect.

[REDACTED]
Manager
Advanced Projects

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