

~~TOP SECRET~~

PRIORITY



# 140022304

9007 12 432

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PRIORITY [REDACTED] INFO PRIORITY [REDACTED] CITE [REDACTED]

REF A. MISSION 1013

REF B. [REDACTED]

AGREE WITH YOUR FACTS AND FIGURES IN REF B HOWEVER, PRIORITIES OF TARGETING IN NORTHERN LATITUDES IS OF LESS IMPORTANCE THAN AVAILABILITY OF TIMELY WEATHER SATELLITE RESULTS IN HIGHER PRIORITY AREAS OF ASIA. A LAUNCH TIME OF 2030Z WOULD DENY US ANY USEFUL INFORMATION FROM THE WEATHER SATELLITES. WE HAVE FOUND FROM EXPERIENCE THAT OUR TAKE IN CLOUD FREE AREAS INCREASES SHARPLY WHEN OUR LAUNCHES ARE TIMED SO THAT THE VEHICLE FOLLOWS WEATHER SATELLITE REPORTING WITHIN A REASONABLE TIME. UNLESS YOU HAVE OVER RIDING TECHNICAL REASONS WE WOULD RATHER RETAIN A 2130Z LAUNCH FOR REF MISSION.

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END OF MESSAGE

Declassified and Released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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