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 THE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
 WASHINGTON, D. C. 20301

STIC: Biblio
 STIC: Comm Satt ✓
 STIC: Nucl Det Satt
 STIC: MOL
 Policy: MOL

19 MAR 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
 THE SECRETARY OF THE NAVY
 THE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE
 THE DIRECTOR OF DEFENSE RESEARCH
 AND ENGINEERING
 THE DIRECTOR, DEFENSE COMMUNICATIONS
 AGENCY

SUBJECT: Public Information Handling of the TITAN IIIC Space
 Launches from Cape Kennedy During 1966

The space launches scheduled during the remainder of 1966 at the TITAN IIIC complex at Cape Kennedy will be conducted under "open launch" procedures. In view of the unusual configuration of the launch complex, the geographical considerations, and other factors, it is unlikely that closed launches would reduce public visibility and it is probable that strict security procedures would intensify media interest and create undesirable speculation and adverse publicity.

The Cape Kennedy space launches noted which include the Initial Defense Communications Satellite (IDCSP), VELA Nuclear Test Detection Satellite, and the Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) programs are to be considered exceptions to paragraph V.B. Department of Defense Directive, S-5200.13, subject: Security Policy for Military Space Programs (u), November 15, 1962.

The Air Force will develop annexes to the TITAN III Information Plan, June 6, 1963, and the Manned Orbiting Laboratory Information Plan, January 5, 1966, to provide detailed procedures which will be submitted to the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs for approval.

WP-306/66

Sec Def Cont Nr. X- 616

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS;
 DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
 DOD DIR 5200.10

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Because of the classified material involved, the Department of Defense desires to maintain tight control of information released pertaining to the MOL program. Although an exception to S-5200.13 has been granted for the MOL heat shield qualification test scheduled for October 1966 from Cape Kennedy, the basic policy outlined in the MOL Information Plan applies. That is, the mission may be described solely as that of learning more about what man is able to do in space and how that capability can be used for defense purposes. The objective is to provide material in response to legitimate public interest rather than to generate publicity.

All other public information that is not included in the material attached to the MOL Information Plan will process for approval through a single DoD point of review --- Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs, Directorate for Plans and Programs. This information includes but is not limited to press releases, statements, speeches, proposed responses to queries from news media or local public officials and proposed letters or other unclassified responses to Congress through Legislative Liaison or other channels. The Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs will coordinate the material before release with the Bureau of Public Affairs, Department of State. This provision was coordinated with the Department of State, Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Aeronautics and Space Agency, and it applies to all executive departments and agencies.

G. Vance

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