

This document contains information
referring to Project **CORONA**

COR - 0440
Cy 1 of 6

4 May 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD:

**SUBJECT: Briefing by L/C Matheson on Search for Discoverer
#2 Capsule**

1. Several items of interest developed from this briefing. One of these is that there is no positive indication that the capsule has been found by friendly or unfriendly people; however, L/C Matheson was positive that the object sighted in the Spitsbergen area was the recoverable portion of the Discoverer capsule.
2. To assist in determining if the Russians have acquired this capsule, since any future PIO and/or technical releases would be subject to evaluation by the Russians in the event they have the capsule, the following is recommended.
 - a. A review and analysis of all intelligence sources during period 14 April to 21 April to indicate Russian search for or recovery of the capsule.
 - b. Plant agents in areas to obtain information from the Russian population during the bi-annual (Aug. and Mar.) "Wing Dings" between the Norwegians and the Russian inhabitants in the area.
3. Another item of interest is that no definite arrangements have been made for continuing the search. A \$500.00 reward has been posted for information leading to recovery and the Norwegian Air Force has indicated it will immediately pass news of any recovery to the USAF. If the above items produce no results consideration should be given to a further air and surface search after the snow melts in June. The inhabitants would be another source of effective and economical assistance.
4. Of particular concern to the Project is the future possibility of the capsule with film being inadvertently released into friendly or unfriendly territory. L/C Matheson is approaching Air Force Headquarters to establish procedures for EMD to receive immediate notification if this should occur and to establish procedures for any friendly forces in the area to start immediate search. In case this unfortunate event should occur, it is recommended that Project Headquarters prepare and have available on a standby basis the following items:
 - a. Cover story to explain the presence of the film load.
 - b. An emergency SOP for recovery and handling.

ARTHUR E. SMITH, JR.

Colonel, USAF

Chief, Operations Br., DPD-DD/P

~~SECRET~~