

SAFSS

1965 SEP 7 10 41

3 SEP 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

SUBJECT: COSMOS V Photography

As you know, arrangements previously were made between Dr. Milliam and Dr. Gorman to process and review, here in Washington, all film taken from COSMOS V with the Quasar camera prior to any public release. This included not only DoD experiments but also NASA film exposed in the same launch.

Dr. Gorman and I, along with representatives from CIA, State Department, the NSD, and EPIC, reviewed the film last Wednesday. There follows a brief summary of my observations:

- a. Although several DoD facilities and systems were photographed (for example: Bergstrom AFB and the aircraft carrier Champlain), the bulk of the astronaut's attention was directed toward cloud patterns and unusual terrain features around the world;
- b. Resolution varied from about 20 to 30' with the black and white film, and from about 40 to 60' with the color film;
- c. Although there probably is no real intelligence value in any of the photography, the fact remains that aircraft can be observed in the Bergstrom AFB photo and the USS Champlain is clearly identifiable as an aircraft carrier.
- d. The ability of man to identify a specific ground target, and point his spacecraft at and track that target, is obvious from the photography.

- 1. DepSecDef
- 2. DCI
- 3. SS-1
- 4. SS-5
- 5. RP-1
- 2-33-7

REPRODUCTION VIA EYCHAN  
CONTROL POINT

4 6

WE 36790.65

At the meeting, we agreed to the following:

a. NASA color film taken with the Quasar camera was all releasable, subject only to State Department guidance with regard to possible foreign relationship problems. There is no significant intelligence information evident in any of these photographs;

b. All of the DoD film (black and white, plus color through an IR filter) would be classified;

c. The DoD film would be reviewed with the astronauts and appropriate members of the GEMINI team as classified material. This review for the purpose of assisting them in evaluating mission performance will be accomplished this week-end.

d. Since the press was aware of the DoD experiments, some DoD film would probably have to be released as typical of the results obtained.

We have reviewed the DoD film and are taking the following action:

a. Several prints are being delivered to General LaBailly as releasable to the press, if necessary. Specifically, these include photographs of Dallas, the Cape Kennedy NASA industrial area, the moon, Venus, and Alpha Centaur.

b. General LaBailly has been instructed that, if necessary to release these prints, it will be done from Houston and with minimum fanfare. His spokesman will be cautioned that we seek minimum DoD publicity, and that all aspects of DoD Washington interest in this event are classified.

Alexander H. Flax  
Acting Director  
National Reconnaissance Office

SEARCHED  
SERIALIZED  
INDEXED  
FILED

4 6  
2 2

BY E 36791.65