

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~ISI~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

14 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: 20 May 1972 GAMBIT Failure - Contingency Action

This is for your information.

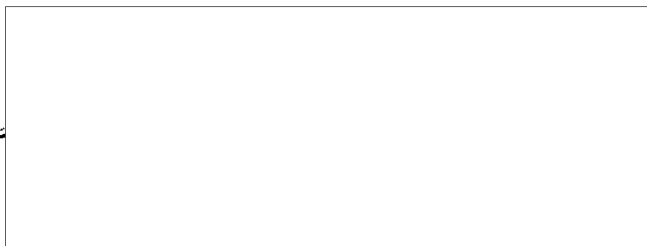
By TWX from SAFSP dated 9 June 1972 (Tab A) we were advised the subject GAMBIT could have decayed in a 26 nm wide corridor beginning off the South East Coast of



(b)(1)
(b)(3)

Consequent to receipt of the aforementioned information the ICPC Secretariat met on 13 June 1972 and decided to advise State, CIA, DIA and NASA of the probable impact areas and ask their Agencies to request their appropriate elements to determine if there have been reports of spacecraft debris sighting in the corridor and so advise the NRO (Tab B).

The ICPC Secretariat also decided to inform the ICPC Working Group of the reported impact area of the subject GAMBIT, the actions taken in Tab B as well as to notify them that the NRP Satellite Contingency Plan would be implemented if it became necessary (Tab C).



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B
haka

GAMBIT
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3

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SAFES	
Dr McLucas	
Dr Naka	
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PRIORITY WHIG, WAHOO
GAMBIT/

WHIG FOR D. BRADBURN. WAHOO FOR C. MURPHY. FROM
L. W. ROBERTS. SUBJECT: 4335 IMPACT ANALYSIS.

1. THE PRELIMINARY ANALYSIS OF MISSION 4335 FAILURE TO
ACHIEVE ORBIT WAS REPORTED IN A BROAD OCEAN AREA IN
THE

DEGREES. BOTH THE CONTRACTOR AND AEROSPACE WERE
CHARGED TO PERFORM CONCURRENT, BUT INDEPENDENT,
DETAILED IMPACT ANALYSIS. THESE STUDIES INVOLVED NUMER-
OUS RE-ENTRY RUNS IN WHICH THE INJECTION VECTOR PARA-
METERS HAD TO BE PERTURBED ONE-BY-ONE. BOTH STUDIES
HAVE JUST BEEN COMPLETED AND YIELDED THE FOLLOWING
CONSISTENT RESULTS: (A) THE MOST PROBABLE IMPACT

PAGE 2 CHARGE 3195 ~~SECRET~~

POINT IS [REDACTED] AND
(B) THE THREE-SIGMA PERTURBED FOOTPRINT IS A 26 N.M.
CORRIDOR FROM [REDACTED] TO [REDACTED]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

2. THE ABOVE INFORMATION HAS ALSO BEEN PROVIDED TO
H. STELLING IN AN ATTEMPT TO DETERMINE IF ANY ELINT
SENSOR MAY HAVE DETECTED ANY SIGNATURES RELATED
TO THE VEHICLE RE-ENTRY/IMPACT.

3. THIS REPORT WILL BE UPDATED SHOULD ANY NEW INFORMA-
TION BECOME AVAILABLE.

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(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

13 June 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING
COMMITTEE (ICPC) WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: GAMBIT

The following message has been transmitted to the BCOs of the State Department, DIA, CIA and NASA. This data is provided for your information at this time. In the event it becomes necessary to implement the NRP Satellite Contingency Plan, BYE-12816-71, you will be notified.

"Analysis of available data regarding the failure of the GAMBIT Mission of 20 May 1972 to achieve orbit indicates that debris from the spacecraft may have fallen along

[Redacted]

(b)(1)
(b)(3)

It is requested that you advise concerned subordinate elements to report any information relative to the sighting or reporting of the entry of space debris as specified in paragraph 3.

Inquiries outside the BYEMAN system can include the following information at the SECRET level:

"A classified U. S. spacecraft launched 20 May 1972 failed to achieve orbit. Indications are that debris

[Redacted]

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Request any information you may receive

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55-3

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or have received concerning the sighting or reporting of the entry of space debris during the time frame 20 May 72 to present. No reference to U. S. satellite operations should be made at the unclassified level".

Please submit any reports to the NRO as soon after received as possible."



(b)(3)

Attachment
Membership List
BYE-12880-72

ICPC WORKING GROUP

Mr. Roscoe C. Lewis

[Redacted]

Lt Col Gordon Bass

State
CIA (OSA)
DIA

(b)(3)

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