~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

14 00089105D

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

20 August 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR LT COLONEL HOFMANN

[redacted] (b)(3)

LT COLONEL CRAIG

SUBJECT: Satellite Decay Security

Reference H. COHEN's message (CHARGE 5381).

At present there are 30 NRP long-orbit-life vehicles on-orbit (attachment 1). There are vehicles which can be classified as "fragile" in terms of reentry survivability. Based on MOONDUST and VAST experience, one can consider that the vehicles will not survive reentry intact and it would be extremely difficult to make an assessment of their respective missions.

At present there are two types of TIP reporting. Under COP 71-1, the SAFSS Satellite Contingency Plan ~~(S)~~ contingency TIP is initiated at our request and all the TWX traffic is at the SECRET level. The normal TIP reporting is a set procedure within the SDC. Once an object reaches a threshhold altitude, the SDC initiates its TIP procedure and TIP messages are sent at specified intervals. Addressees are varied and include SAFSS, DEFSMAC, SAMSO and the AFSTC.

With regard to questions posed by reference message (paragraph 3), it is our responsibility to maintain and be prepared to react to situations resulting from the decay of one of our satellites. Hence, propose the following:

a. Continued monitoring of TIP reports by the SOC.

b. On the premise that a mission is not finished until the vehicle is no longer on orbit, task the AFSTC to advise SAFSP (and thence the SOC). (At present the AFSTC liaison office (DONNR) receives the message but nothing further is done.)

[redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

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CLASSIFIED BY BYEMAN - 1 EXEMPT FROM GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATEGORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.

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c. Based on the motive of the program/vehicle, have the security guide reflect classified TIP reporting if warranted.

ROBERT J. PROCHKO
Major, USAF
Chief, Analysis Branch

Attachment
List of Long-Life Vehicles
Currently on Orbit

LIST OF LONG-LIFE VEHICLES CURRENTLY ON ORBIT

SDC DESIGNATOR	MISSION NUMBER	NAME	EXPECTED DECAY DATE
[redacted]			
6046	7338	URSALA	APRIL 1980
[redacted]			
5969	7337	ARROYO	JULY 1977
[redacted]		POPPY	JULY 1977
5772	7339	MABELI	JANUARY 1977
5329	7167/7736/7240	THRESHER/REAPER/ HARVESTER	OCTOBER 1975
[redacted]			
4722	7334	TOP HAT	JANUARY 1975
[redacted]			
4406	7332	TRIPOS 4	DECEMBER 1973
*4418	7601/7235	THRESHER/REAPER	OCTOBER 1975
3830	7330	TIVILOI-2	
[redacted]			
3472	7238	CONVOY	
[redacted]			
2780	7316/7319	SLEWTO/FANION III	1977
[redacted]			1975
[redacted]			1975
[redacted]			1975
[redacted]			

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

SDC DESIGNATOR	MISSION NUMBER	NAME	EXPECTED DECAY DATE
			1975

*NOTE--ACTUAL ORBIT NOT CARRIED IN SDC CATALOGUE.

0727	7210	HAYLOFT	1974
			1974
			1974
			1974
		GREB II	1974
		GREB I	1974
		SAMOS-2	1974

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