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ITN 0516

VZCZCXQA881
121217 PP 3BB RUXSBAA250Z 3182311 00018-XXXX--RUXPDAA.

ZNY XXXXX BBB ZNM

P 142310Z

BT

XXXXX

DAMP 645

DAMP PASS [REDACTED], LAGOON

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PRIORITY DRIVER, INFO PRIORITY LAGOON.

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SECUR

TO: [REDACTED]

INFO: LAGOON/FOLEY

FROM: BISON [REDACTED]

SUBJ: STS ALTITUDES FOR HASP/WASP

REF: [REDACTED] CITE 1335

SAFSP-16 HAS BEEN STUDYING THE LOW ALTITUDE OPERATING CAPABILITY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE FOR SEVERAL MONTHS. THE OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY HAS BEEN TO DETERMINE THE FEASIBILITY OF OPERATING THE SHUTTLE FOR A SORTIE MISSION IN A HIGH ATMOSPHERIC DRAG REGIME, I.E., AT PERIGEE ALTITUDE AT AND BELOW 100 N.M. PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT NASA HAD NOT INVESTIGATED THE SHUTTLE LOW ALTITUDE OPERATING CAPABILITY, AS IT WAS OUTSIDE THE ANTICIPATED SHUTTLE OPERATING ENVELOPE. SOME RESULTS ARE CURRENTLY AVAILABLE. HOWEVER, WE DO NOT INTEND TO RELEASE THE RESULTS AT THIS TIME DUE TO THEIR PRELIMINARY NATURE. OUR PLAN IS TO INDEPENDENTLY VERIFY OUR PRELIMINARY RESULTS IN THE NEAR FUTURE. SHOULD THE INDEPENDENT VERIFICATION PROVIDE CONSISTENT DATA, WE WILL PUBLISH THE RESULTS DURING THE SECOND WEEK OF DECEMBER.

E-2 IMPDET

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BT

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NNNN 3182337

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