

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

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

THE NRO STAFF

Noted by the  
Under Secretary  
of the Air Force  
10 Sep at SP

7 September 1971

*Info for 10 Sept at HQ*  
*S.*

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Photo-Satellite Launch Schedule

The attached alternative launch schedules developed by SS-4 illustrate a number of approaches that may be taken toward proceeding with HEXAGON while making some utilization of the remaining CORONA assets. Because of your expressed interest in this subject (specifically as to whether the remaining CORONAs can be used to enhance attainment of a HEXAGON pipeline) and the fact that this matter may come up in discussion during your visit to SAFSP, they are submitted for your review.

A short description of these schedules and some of the major considerations applying to each is as follows:

Schedule I - This may be regarded as the "base-line" approach since it proceeds with HEXAGON and GAMBIT as the primary assets, using the two uncommitted CORONAs as HEXAGON backup only. Reasonable HEXAGON success would leave these CORONAs unexpended. General Allen has advised that retention of a CORONA launch capability will require about \$1M/month after January 1972, hence the need for maintaining this backup should be seriously reviewed after HEXAGON 1202.

Schedule II - This schedule launches an additional CORONA (1116) in the near term to better fill the gap occasioned by the present delay in HEXAGON 1202. CORONA 1117 is retained in the backup mode for 1202 and 1203. If not needed as backup, 1117 is launched after 1203, delaying 1204 such that it could be backed up by 1205. All CORONAs would be expended; however, launch services would require a three-month extension (\$3M).

Schedule III - This approach injects 1116 and 1117 into the launch schedule immediately after they have served as backup to 1202 and 1203, respectively. This serves to slip 1204 even further with respect to the base-line schedule, again enhancing its backup by 1205. All CORONAs would be expended and CORONA launch services would require about a three and one-half month extension.

~~CORONA GAMBIT HEXAGON~~  
HANDLE VIA

**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
DDI DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

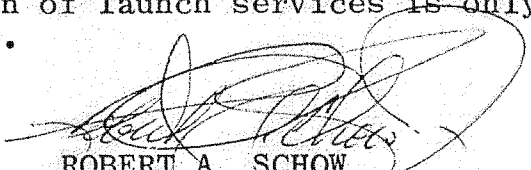
CONTROL NO. Internal  
COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES  
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

Schedule IV - This approach in effect substitutes 1116 for 1203, as compared to the base line, after 1116 has served as backup to 1202. This has questionable customer acceptability; however, it allows 1203 to be slipped until it is pipelined by 1204. CORONA 1117 would still remain and would serve as additional backup to 1203. To further enhance the HEXAGON pipeline, 1117 could later be launched. While the schedule shows all CORONAS expended, this might require extension of launch services into August 1972 (about \$6.5M).

Schedule V - This schedule substitutes two CORONAS, 1116 and 1117, for 1203, slipping 1203 to a date where it is pipelined by 1204. Two CORONAS more nearly equate to a HEXAGON in area coverage but cannot provide resolution acceptable for quarterly surveillance. All CORONAS are expended in this schedule, and extension of launch services is only required through March 1972.

  
ROBERT A. SCHOW  
Major, CE, USA

Atch  
Launch Schedules

HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING  
DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY

CONTROL NO. Internal  
COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES  
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES