

Unclassified
~~TOP SECRET~~

pub - A - 3-80 KA

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM



~~IS~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

(5)

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

June 14, 1971

Dear Dick,

Previous experience with new space launchings indicates that we may expect some media coverage of the initial HEXAGON launch. This will be the first time that a booster as large as the Titan IIID has been launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base and will indicate a major new program. In this period of limited space activity any new program commands national interest.

The only official comment regarding the launch will be a post launch announcement "A satellite employing a Titan IIID was launched today, ___ June 1971 at ___ PDT from the Space and Missile Test Center at Vandenberg Air Force Base, California." Speculation or questions for mission or payload data will be answered with the response "The payload is classified and no additional information can be provided."

Queries relating to the booster and safety aspects of the program will be answered in a straightforward manner depending upon booster program classification. The frequency or dates of future launches is classified and will not be released.

All government and contractor personnel associated with the program have been rebriefed on their security obligations and also senior program officials' concern regarding disclosures. We have also reaffirmed our information release policies to insure no unauthorized statements are made.

~~HEXAGON~~
HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

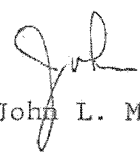
SS-5
WORKING COPY
REF ID: A6896-71
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

As you know there has been considerable speculation in trade journals that a "new super spy satellite" will be launched in the near future. We have taken all possible precautions to insure that we in no way contribute to the existing press data base. While we cannot positively predict the extent or degree of news coverage, it is anticipated that it will be limited to the time frame immediately following the launch.

Sincerely,



John L. McLucas

The Honorable Richard Helms
Director of Central Intelligence
Washington, D. C.

cc: Mr. Packard
Dr. David
 (OSDPA)

~~HEXAGON~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~