

~~TOP SECRET~~HANDLE VIA  
**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM~~(S)~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

15 July 1974

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. MURPHY

SUBJECT: 1208-3 Solar Degradation

Attachment 1 hereto is the PFA message which describes the specular reflectance/front lighting problem on 1208-3. As a result of my telecon with Major Raspet and [REDACTED] a clarification message (attachment 2) was sent by CHARGE. I also visited NPIC on 5 July and had a detailed discussion with [REDACTED]. The consensus is that the statement in the R-831 about 40 percent of the frames being degraded is misleading. That is, there is some other measurand such as scan angle or feet of film which properly describes the amount of imagery which is affected by these solar conditions. Further, the degradation ranges from minimal to severe; that is, washed out. [REDACTED] is responsible for the quality evaluation for the PFA and he assured me that their approach next time would consider a realistic approach to quantity and quality.

In addition, [REDACTED] prepared a paper (attachment 3) which addresses the background on SR/FL, the orbit selection process, and provides a quantitative estimate of the degradation in terms of feet of film. Since retrieval of the data was arduous, [REDACTED] selected three separate rev spans (i.e., ops) and assumed that the appropriate degradation occurred in each frame in the -10 to -20 and +10 to +20 degrees of scan. The percent degradation in terms of feet of film varies from 9.9 to 17.2; the average is 14.1 percent.

[REDACTED]

SF: HEDSON

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CONTROL SYSTEMCLASSIFIED BY BYEMAN - 1 EXEMPT FROM  
GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF  
EXECUTIVE ORDER 11852 EXEMPTION CATE-  
GORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.~~TOP SECRET~~CONTROL NO. INTERNAL  
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