

~~TOP SECRET~~*PRO Abb*

3 March 1971

NOTE FOR COLONEL SWEENEY

The following information is provided in response to your questions at Staff meeting this morning:

HEXAGON SV-1 is scheduled to begin A-1 chamber tests the second week in March. It left the A-2 chamber Monday, and about nine days of A-1 preps are required which would result in the start of A-1 tests on 9-10 March. A-1 tests will require about 15 days (to 23-24 March). Based on previous estimates, the remaining work at Sunnyvale (ship preps and final system tests) will probably require 25-29 days (ship 19-21 April), followed by about ten days at Vandenberg. This would yield an earliest launch date of about 1 May. An informal check with the West Coast indicates the above time scale is reasonable.

The Comptroller has sent a message to clarify the confusion on the first launch of the mapping camera. It will be on the seventh vehicle which is the first one which will be properly configured. The confusion arose from the fact that the guidance was prepared before the second HEXAGON launch was announced by SAFSP for September 1971. It was previously projected for June 1971 which would have meant two launches in FY 71. Since there will now only be one launch in FY 71 (maybe), the first mapping camera has slipped another quarter to the second quarter FY 73.

ROBERT A. SCHOW, JR.
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~~HEXAGON~~
HANDLE VIA BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

Internal

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