

~~TOP SECRET~~



July 23 '62

WORKING PAPER SUMMARY OF THE INFLUENCES OF RETRO VERSUS PRO-GRADE ORBITS:::::

Assuming that inclination, altitude and the orientation of one payload <sup>relative</sup> to the other, remain the same without regard to the direction the payloads are traveling, then the Law of Reciprocity will hold and there is no difference in the data or the collection area <sup>of</sup> coverage which will result for a prograde orbit or a retrograde orbit.....unless some orbits are available for interrogation from the command station for the Prograde Orbit situation that are not available from the command station for the retrograde orbit situation. On this rests the entire case; the present system utilizes and [redacted] for prograde orbit interrogation and it would be our suggestion that [redacted] and [redacted] would be used for the retrograde situation.....but not with equal results...

[redacted] has far superior communication facilities with Washington D.C. it is experienced with two years activity and a seasoned team of personnel and equipment. The interrogatable passes from [redacted] result in criss-crossing the Western European-Soviet areas west of the Ural Mountains.....This is not possible when only [redacted] is used for the Retrograde Orbit situation, only those long southwest-going passes cross this very important area. A [redacted] yet undetermined command site could be selected and fitted for the interrogation of those passes going toward the north west over the area west of the Ural Mts, but to accomplish this before mid November is a rather serious gamble with the limited personnel and equipment available at this time.

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HANDLE VIA  
SYSTEM  
CONTROL SYSTEM ONLY