

~~Top Secret~~ []
MEMORANDUM

Subj: Proposal for schedule of evaluation effort on Mission 7107.

1. Historically in the past missions, NRL has carried out a three phase evaluation effort. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ This effort was aimed at determining at the earliest time, any engineering restraints in the operational potential of the new mission and the optimized solution ~~xxx~~ for minimizing the impact of any problems in the spacecraft systems. This procedure has normally embraced a period of about 30 days. The first and second ~~xxxx~~ orbits were devoted to an examination of the reaction of the Soviet radar environment to the appearance of the new Mission as it splits apart into various spacecraft and an empty Agena. This is called Phase #I and requires some judicious tasking wisdom. The Phase #II follows for a period of the first two weeks and then the third and fourth week is Phase III.

2. Phase #I experience in Mission 7106 was carried out and as far as could be detected there was no ^{discernible} ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ reaction to the launch. The spacecraft command system was set into a delayed-ON mode so that the the ELINT subsystems would activate over []...Then after a few minutes it would reach [] where the tasking for the next pass was set again using the Delayed-On Mode so that the spacecraft would come on over []..the third pass was interrogated by [].

Now consider the problems of carrying this out as described, for Mission 7107:

The Data Link Transmitting antenna system of these spacecraft have been changed from an omnidirectional system to one what ^{Now} has high directivity and this will result in extremely deep signal fades when the antenna is not aimed at the ground ^{from an unstabilized spacecraft}. With the spacecraft spinning and tumbling in an uncontrolled manner the evaluation of the radar environment will be ^{impractical if not} nearly impossible. It is therefore recommended that portion of the early operations be scrubbed as unworkable until spacecraft are stabilized and rightside up.

Additionally the personnel deployment necessary to carryout this Phase I effort involves considerable risk of delay in launch. It would be extremely difficult to get personnel to the sites in time for the Pass #3 turn on from [] much less the earlier passes and the command routines from []

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