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

THE NRO STAFF

20 February 1970

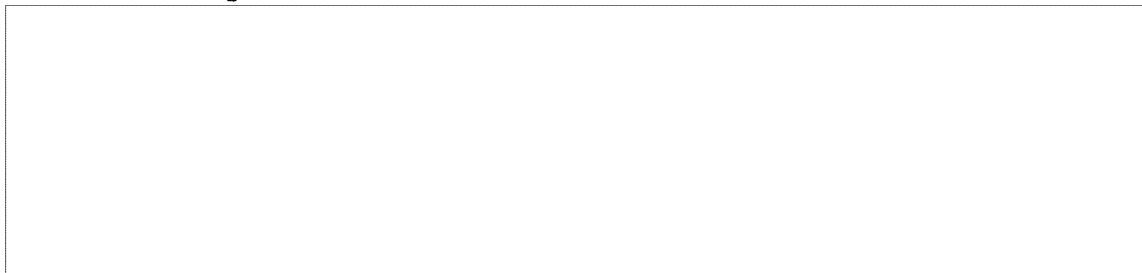
MEMORANDUM FOR DR. CHARLES COOK, CIA/OSI

SUBJECT: Cancellation of ARROYO Mission

REFERENCE: SORS 9./40, 11 July 1968


The referenced document, which was in response to an NRO request for mission objectives for unassigned P-11 satellites, led to the planned TOPHAT (troposcatter) and ARROYO (microwave) payloads which are now scheduled for launch in November 1970 and March 1971, respectively.

As you know, we frequently review planned NRP missions as situations change and as other events occur and this process has led us to the conclusion that termination of the ARROYO payload may be desirable. This finding is based on the following which have taken place since the 11 July 1968 SORS guidance:



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In addition, it appears that much information on Soviet microwave tower locations can be derived from KH-9, which is scheduled for launch several months before ARROYO. Also, the KH-9 product will be of such quality as to free the KH-8 of some surveillance requirements and permit more targetting of the KH-8 against suspect communications locations. Thus, KH-9 and KH-8, working together, can locate a good percentage of the Soviet communications targets of interest. As for Chinese targets, there is considerable question in our minds as to what ARROYO will accomplish since we know so little about Chinese communications.

 should give a better view of this.

~~EARPOP~~

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In view of the above, we are considering termination of the ARROYO payload development by the end of this month. Prior to taking this action, however, we would appreciate your comments. In order to complete this action by 1 March, your early response is requested.



LEW ALLEN, JR.
Brigadier General, USAF
Director

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