

MSF

3 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL SCHRIEVER

SUBJECT: Space Launch Data

1. During the month of August 1965, the following special program activities occurred:

a. Program 241 (CORONA "J")

The 23d "J" vehicle (FTV #1618) was successfully launched and orbited on 17 August from PALC 1-1. The first capsule was successfully air recovered after five days on 22 August. After two days of operation, following the recovery of the first capsule, the master camera began to operate intermittently due to a failure in the camera electrical control circuit. The camera operated intermittently for the next two days. The second capsule was successfully air recovered after four days on 26 August. The orbital parameters were:

70 degree Inclination
90.4 minute period
98 n.m. Perigee
224 n.m. Apogee

The P-15 (orbit adjust) experiment was successfully conducted on the Agena vehicle after recovery of the second capsule. This experiment successfully demonstrated that the orbit of the Agena vehicle can be adjusted by the solid rockets. Each of the four solid rockets had a 2225 pound seconds of thrust. Each rocket could change the orbital period by 15 seconds and the altitude by 11 miles or a 20 foot per second change in velocity.

b. Program 206 (GAMBIT)

The 21st GAMBIT (OCV #971) was launched and orbited from PALC 2-4 on 3 August. The mission failed between orbits 1 and 2 when the General Electric OCV became unstable. Capsule was successfully air recovered after four days on 7 August.

The P-11 satellite (#7312) was successfully injected into a 275 n.m. circular orbit on this launch. This was the third dual burn P-11 to be orbited and all are still working very good and in good orbits. Therefore, there will

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be no more P-11 launches before January 1966.

2. The following special program activities are scheduled for September:

a. Program 241 (CORONA "J")

The 24th "J" vehicle (FTV #1619) is scheduled for launch from PALC 1-1 on 15 September. This will be a standard two-capsule launch.


The 25th "J" vehicle (FTV #1616) is scheduled for launch from Complex 75-3, Pad 5, on 27 September. The purpose of this satellite is for mapping, charting, and geodesy and will contain the two capsules for recovery.

b. Program 206 (GAMBIT)

The 22d GAMBIT vehicle (OCV #972) is scheduled for launch not earlier than 13 September. This launch has been delayed due to the resonant failures in the General Electric OCV.

c. Program 417

The 13th weather satellite is now scheduled for launch on 9 September from Complex 75-2, Pad 6.



O. J. RITLAND
Major General, USAF
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