DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS AIR FORCE SYSTEMS COMMAND
ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20331

7 February 1968

REPLY TO SCSS

Space Launch Data BYE 69201-68

SCG (General Ferguson)

1. For January 1968, two space reconnaissance missions were orbited to obtain photographic data over the Sino-Soviet complex:

a. Program 110 (GAMBIT CUBED)

Mission 4311, launched on 18 January 1968, was lost during recovery operations on 28 January 1968 when the parachute system for the film capsule failed to open. It is believed that the capsule was destroyed upon water impact. All search efforts have been terminated. An intense investigation is underway by SAFSP and contractors to determine the cause and/or appropriate action required.

b. Program 846 (CORONA J)

The 49th J vehicle (Mission 1045), equipped with a broad coverage photographic system and carrying a P-11 subsatellite (par. 2a), was launched on 24 January 1968. Both capsules were successfully recovered: the first on 31 January 1968, the second on 8 February 1968. Unusually good weather conditions prevailed over the Sino-Soviet complex during the entire mission. Approximately 8 million square miles of territory were photographed with excellent results. Mapping and Charting was allocated 14 percent of the film.

2. In the SIGINT area, two vehicles were placed in orbit during the month of January 1968. The status of these and other vehicles on orbit follows:

a. Program 989 (P-11 Subsatellite)

The P-11 subsatellite (Mission 7324), launched on 24 January 1968 (par. 1b), is successfully collecting data in its frequency range of from 100 MHZ to 4,000 MHZ. Two other P-11 satellites (Mission 7312 launched 16 June 1967; Mission 7321 launched 2 November 1967) are continuing to successfully collect data in their frequency range of 250 MHZ to 1,000 MHZ.

b. Program 770 (EARPOP)

One new multi-payload vehicle (missions 7231, 7163 and 7232) was launched on 17 January 1968. Although this vehicle is still in the test phase, early reports indicate that a command failure has occurred which resulted in the loss of the wide-band analog capability. A digital command system is performing satisfactorily to obtain useful data in this operational mode. Frequency ranges covered by the payload capabilities follow:

| | |
|---|---|
| MG 3 (all) | 250 MHZ - 4260 MHZ |
| Setter 1B (EOB) | 2600 MHZ-3215 MHZ |

c. Program 770 (POPPY)

No new POPPY missions were launched in January 1968. Mission 7104 (launched 9 March 1965) and Mission 7105 (launched 31 May 1967) are continuing to collect useful data. Mission 7103 launched 11 January 1964 ended its mission during [redacted] after [redacted] of successful operation. Design life for these sphere-shaped vehicles is [redacted]

3. No new launches are scheduled for February 1968. 50X1

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for DAVID H. BARGER, Colonel, USAF
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