151 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

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WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NEO STAFF

26 March 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR COLONEL KULPA

SUBJECT: URSALA 2 Launch Philosophy

BACKGROUND: We have been slipping the URSALA 2 launch date based on the good health of URSALA 1 and to protect against a gap between URSALA 2 and 3. The program office has requested a decision to launch URSALA 2 on HEXAGON Mission 1206 or 1207 (attachment 1). Our initial thoughts on URSALA launch philosophy are included as attachment 2. The NSA expressed a desire for a Mission 1207 launch date (CONCERT 0258, 26 Oct 72) based on the same philosophy.

DISCUSSION: The optimum time to launch URSALA 2 depends on several interrelated factors as discussed below:

a. URSALA 1 Health. URSALA 1 had an anomaly in February such that no ELINT pulsed data could be collected from the mission. A positive statement concerning this anomally is that it has been resolved and is temperature dependent; there is no reason to believe the mission will not last through September 1973. A negative statement concerning the same anomally is that the one year planned life of the mission runs out in July; tasking has been at a reduced level from previously demonstrated capability and although the situation is expected to improve, we are handling the mission with "kid gloves."

b. URSALA 3 Launch Date. The URSALA 3 mission is currently scheduled to be available in January 1974 and there has not been any announced slip in the availability date. However, there are significant changes in the payload between URSALA 3 and URSALA 2 and our track record of meeting availability dates with "new" P-11's has not been all that good. Suggest you telephone General Bradburn or Colonel Simington for a personal appraisal on this item.

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- c. Plane Spacing. From a target revisit point of view and assuming two URSALA's up and operating with associated processing capability, it is good to have the planes about 90 degrees apart. Both Missions 1206 and 1207 are satisfactory for this purpose.
- d. Processing Capability. There is only enough processing capability at to handle about two thirds of a healthy URSALA in good sun conditions (about 160 minutes/day collection). Therefore, it doesn't make much sense to have two URSALA's up at the same time unless we need the revisit time for a particular area of interest, e.g., S.E. Asia or the Middle East. Two URSALA's up might force improved processing or demonstrate a two URSALA capability for ocean surveillance versus Tactical ELINT Study).
- e. FOB Capability. With the death of STRAWMAN 4 and the our only realistic EOB capability is with the URSALA series. The POPPY geopositioning capability is really debatable when it comes to hard core EOB production. Here, once again, we can build a case both ways. We can say launch in May to preclude a possible EOB gap due to failure of URSALA 1 because the

I believe the swinging vote here is that the highlight for last year's 5-Year Plan said "Protect against any gaps in EOB," which drove us toward the purchase of URSALA 3 and 4; this year, we asked the SIGINT Committee if any areas in the 5-Year Plan required de-emphasis and the group almost put it in writing that they did not want as much routine EOB reporting.

ACTION: In view of all of the above considerations, request you release the message at right.

Chief SIGINT Branch

2 Attachments

- 1. Request to Launch URSALA 2
- 2. URSALA Launch Philosophy

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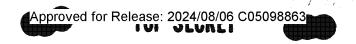
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151 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

6 October 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL BRADBURN

SUBJECT: URSALA 2 Launch Philosophy

Background:

Program Office A has advised us that they need a decision on the URSALA 2 launch 45 days before HEXAGON Mission 1206 is launched. (Attachment 1)

Action:

Request the message at right be released in order to clarify our position on the URSALA 2 launch date.

Attachment CHARGE 5169 (ACC)

Chief, SIGINT Branch

Classified by 346/MAN-1
EXEMPT FROM GENERAL
DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE
OF EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652
EXEMPTION CATEGORY 58(2)
DECLASSIFY ON 184 P.D.E.T.

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PRIORITY ROUTINE

CHARGE

INFO: WAHOO, JUNO, MAGIC, CONSOL,

CONCERT

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CITE: 6363

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SUBJECT: URSALA 2 LAUNCH DATE

REFERENCE: CHARGE 1647, 20 MAR 73

- 1. CONCUR WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO LAUNCH URSALA 2
- NO EARLIER THAN MISSION 1207 IN ACCORDANCE WITH PARA-GRAPH 5 OF REF.
- 2. MISSION 1207 IS CONSIDERED THE MOST LIKELY LAUNCH

FOR URSALA 2. HOWEVER, DEMAY OF LAUNCH TO AN EVEN LATER

MISSION SHOULD BE INVESTIGATED CONSIDERING PLANE SPACING,

CONTINUED GOOD HEALTH OF URSALS 1, AND THE UNDESTRABILITY 6

OF A GAP BETWEEN URSALA 2 AND 3.

3. PLEASE FORWARD COMMENTS RELATIVE TO LAUNCHING ON

MAR 1973

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JOHN E. KULPA, JR., COL, USAF DIRECTOR, NRO STAFF

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Col Kulpa

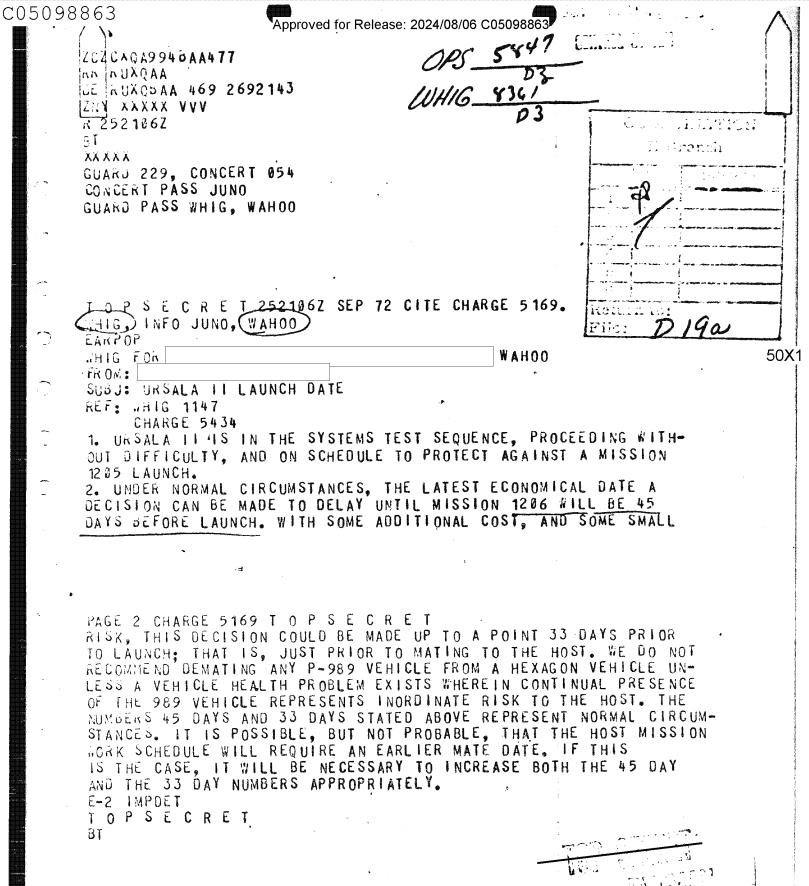
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MISSION 1207 OR 1208 BY 1 JULY 1973.

E-2 IMP DET.

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to, CHARGE	BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM	
INFO: WAHOO, JUNO, M	IADAM	
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SUBJ: URSALA 2 LAUNCH DATE	RD- 2	
REF: CHARGE 5169		35-1
WEF: CHAIME 3109	SS-2 EXEC	
1. THE REASON FOR PROTECTING A	MISSION 1205 LAUNCH OF	SS-2 ADMIN
URSALA 2 IS TO PROTECT AGAINST A	55-3	
ownen a le 10 i worder nommer n.	SS- 4	
DEGRADATION OR FAILURE OF URSAI	\$\$-5	
2. ASSUMING CONTINUED GOOD HEAD	\$\$-6	
	SS-7 SS-8	
URSALA 2 SHOULD BE LAUNCHED ON	COMP	
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INDICATE THAT THE BEST ORBIT PLA	RF	
URSALA 1 AND URSALA 2 WILL BE OB	FILE	
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DAUNCHED ON MISSION 1201. A 1201	DAUNCII WOOLD ALSO	DATE TIME
HAVE THE EFFECT OF MINIMIZING A	NY POSSIBLE GAP	6 MONTH YEAR
BETWEEN URSALA 2 AND URSALA 3.	OCT 1972	
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Continuation Sheet

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Classification

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Puge: 2 of 2

3. REQUEST YOU CONTINUE TO PROTECT A MISSION 1205 LAUNCH
DATE AS LONG AS ECONOMICAL PER REF A. ADDITIONALLY, BASED
ON URSALA 1 VEHICLE HEALTH, PROJECTED LIFETIME, AND ORBITAL
PLANE SEPARATION AS OF 1 DEC 72, REQUEST YOUR RECOMMENDATION
WHETHER URSALA 2 SHOULD BE MOVED TO MISSION 1206 OR 1207.
E-2 IMPDET. END OF MESSAGE

Releasing Officer

Authenticating Officer