

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
 CONTROL SYSTEM

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

D 12 A

THE NRO STAFF

21 June 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL KULPA

SUBJECT: URSALA II Launch

BACKGROUND: WHIG Cite 0363 of 28 March 1973 concurred with a program office recommendation to launch URSALA II no earlier than Mission 1207. Comments relative to launching URSALA II on Mission 1207 or 1208 were requested of the program office by 1 July 1973.

DISCUSSION: The program office has recommended that URSALA II be launched with Mission 1207 (attachment 1). The NRO (SOC) and the NSA concur with the program office recommendation. The following rationale is provided:

a. The URSALA I spacecraft and payload health is good; however, by November 1973, (probable Mission 1207 launch month) URSALA I, a 12 month MMD system, will have been on orbit for 16 months. At the present rate of tasking, the URSALA I tape recorders will reach the average age of failure in September 1973. To delay launch of URSALA II until Mission 1208 would incur considerable risk of a lengthy gap between URSALA I and II. URSALA III's expected availability date is June 1974, so there should be no gap between URSALA's II and III.

b. From the standpoint of orbital plane spacing, Mission 1207 is satisfactory in that it will produce an essentially orthogonal relationship between URSALA I and II, hence optimizing target revisit considerations. However, I don't believe plane spacing should be a decisive factor as URSALA I should have reached, or be nearing, the end of its useful life by November 1973.

CLASSIFIED BY BYEMAN - 1 EXEMPT FROM
 GENERAL DECLASSIFICATION SCHEDULE OF
 EXECUTIVE ORDER 11652 EXEMPTION CATE-
 GORY 5B2 DECLASSIFY ON IMP DET.

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN / EARPOP / HEXAGON
 CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

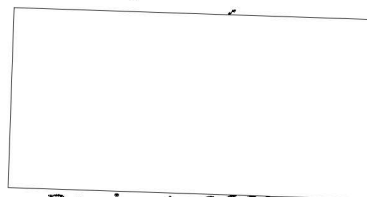
CONTROL NO. Internal
 COPY 1 OF 2 COPIES
 PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

c. In the unlikely event that two healthy URSALAS are on orbit simultaneously for a long term, processing the collected data would certainly be cause for concern based on current processing capabilities. However, I believe it reasonable to assume that if there is overlap, it would only be short term. With the new horizon MSORT due for implementation in the July/August time frame, reprocessing of station tapes at [redacted] will no longer be necessary, thus providing additional processing capability. Further, the processing mix could be adjusted to provide for more URSALA data processing. Summarily, two URSALAS on orbit would force improved processing.

ACTION: In view of the above considerations, and those delineated in attachment 1, request that you release the message at the right.



50X1

Project Officer
SIGINT Branch

W0

Attachment 1: CHARGE Cite 3433
of 12 June 1973
(URSALA II Launch Date)

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~BARPOX/HEXAGON~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL NO. Internal
COPY 2 OF 2 COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES

~~SECRET~~ MESSAGE FORM

~~TOP SECRET~~

X

PRIORITY
ROUTINE

FROM: WHIG

TO: CHARGE

INFO: WAHOO, JUNO, MADAM, [] CONSOL,
CONCERT

TOP SECRET

CITE: _____

EARPOP

SUBJECT: URSALA 2 LAUNCH DATE

REFERENCE: CHARGE 3433 OF 12 JUN 73

- 1. CONCUR WITH YOUR RECOMMENDATION TO LAUNCH URSALA
 - 2 ON MISSION 1207. E-2 IMP DET
- END OF MESSAGE.

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS

BYEMAN

DISTRIBUTION:

| | |
|------|--|
| | |
| 50X1 | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |
| | |

25

JUN

73

PAGE NO
1

TOTAL NO OF PAGES
1

56743

[]
SIGINT BRANCH

SIGNATURE

TYPED (or stamped) NAME AND TITLE

~~TOP SECRET~~

REGRADING INSTRUCTIONS

50X1

~~TOP SECRET~~BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM~~TS~~ NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

D. R. A.

THE NRO STAFF

18 August 1972

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL BRADBURN

SUBJECT: Launch of URSALA 2

A meeting was held at LMSC between Captain Vergho and Mr. Harry West, 16 August 1972, during which the orbit plane separation between URSALA 1 and URSALA 2 based on launch date was discussed. The following table presents the results.

| <u>URSALA 2 Launch Date</u> | <u>Plane Separation</u> |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| 31 December 1972 | 44 degrees |
| 31 January 1973 | 51 degrees |
| 10 March 1973 | 57 degrees |
| 10 June 1973 | 64 degrees |
| October 1973 | 90 degrees |

This information has been developed based on the assumption that Program 467 will have the same orbital constraints for the URSALA 2 launch as were in effect for URSALA 1.

After analyzing the above, I feel the best launch date for URSALA 2 is in March or June of next year. The plane separation will be reasonable, the date is an on MMD date and if it slips, plane separation gets better. I recommend we maintain the direction given to SAFSP and protect a Mission 1205 launch capability currently scheduled for late January 1973. This will ensure availability if an early failure of URSALA 1 occurs, however, there is cost involved. I was informally told by Lt Colonel Wipperman that protecting a

~~EARPOP~~
HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

~~TOP SECRET~~

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DECLASSIFICATION
DOW DIRECTIVE 1206.10 DOES NOT APPLY

Internal

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE 1 OF 2 PAGES

~~TOP SECRET~~



December 1972 launch capability would cost approximately \$200K. The slip of Mission 1205 to late January 1973 should lessen the cost, but I have no feel for the amount.

Irwin J. Feldman

IRWIN J. FELDMAN
Major, USAF
SIGINT Branch

cc - SS-7,

Concern on March launch date. Protecting Dec date as a nice option but based on present performance of URSAH I I'm not sure its worth 200K

50X1

50X1

The formal launch date for 1205 is now 21 Dec 73. This date will soon be changed to late Jan to reflect a major 35 launch rate spacing from 1969. 1200 would then be scheduled for May 73.

50X1



~~TOP SECRET~~

Internal

CONTROL NO. _____
COPY _____ OF _____ COPIES
PAGE 2 OF 2 PAGES