

BYEMAN SYSTEM ONLY

~~TOP SECRET~~  
DORIAN

(S) NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER

BYE 50299/67  
3 July 1967

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Major General James T. Stewart  
Department of the Air Force  
Office of the Secretary  
Vice Director, MOL Program

Dear Jim,

It was good of you and Russ Berg to take the time to hear John Cain and me out following John's and my recent visit to Rochester and Philadelphia for a fill-in on the status of DORIAN.

As we told you, we returned from the visit concerned by the implications for the Center in a decision to move ahead without a multiple recovery system for incremental acquisitions of the take. This will, of course, mean a single delivery of sizeable quantities of film, each frame of which is likely to be loaded with significant intelligence information. Obviously, the Center would prefer to receive smaller batches of take more frequently in order to spread the workload and to speed the exploitation process.

Though not of direct concern to the Center and its mission, we were also interested in the decision to move ahead without an on-board readout and reporting system. A report from an astronaut purporting to see evidence, say, of preparations to initiate hostilities would be lacking in immediate imagery verification and would present severe problems to our policy-makers.

We are aware, of course, that technical issues force trade-offs in the development of systems components and we do not intend to jeopardize mission fulfillment with a series of unilateral demands.

We will, however, present our views to COMIREX for a fuller expression of community judgment. You mentioned plans for an early MOL briefing of COMIREX by your office. We will wait until after that occasion to tell COMIREX of our views.

Best regards,

E. H. Knoche  
Executive Director