

~~SPECIAL HANDLING~~SAMOS

The Under Secretary of the Air Force has been delegated responsibility for the SAMOS project. The SAMOS project consists of both overt and covert programs. The overt projects are numbered, the covert projects are given code word names.

The Secretary has established a field extension of his office located with the Air Force Space Systems Division at El Segundo, California, under the Director of Special Projects. The Director of Special Projects also serves, as additional duty, as Vice Commander, Air Force Space Systems Division, AFSC. He also has a small special staff in the Pentagon under the Director, Office of Missile and Satellite Systems. Other project staffing and support is provided by the Air Force Systems Command.

The programs and their purposes are as follows:

I. OVERT

- a. Program 101 B - Atlas/Agena vehicle with E-5 photographic payload.
- b. Program 102 - Thor/Agena vehicle with digital and analogue ferret payloads.
- c. Program 201 - Atlas/Agena with E-6 photographic payload.
- d. Program 202 - Design study of maneuverable re-entry vehicle.

II. COVERT

- a. GAMBIT - Atlas/Agena with high acuity photographic payload.
- b. EARDROP - Piggyback ferret payloads on several types of satellites.
- c. XENON - Initial chemical processing of recovered film.

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Page 2 of 6 pages

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#189