



7 July 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR: Brigadier General Andrew J. Goodpaster

SUBJECT : Proposed Supplement to CORONA Project

Herewith is a brief statement, which I hope is largely self-explanatory, concerning a proposed Supplement to the CORONA Project. You should be aware that the initiative in undertaking this additional activity came from various sources in the Department of Defense. For a number of months, two different projects have been under consideration, one by the Army and one by the Air Force, to accomplish the purpose of this activity. After most careful consideration by Dr. York, a decision was made to handle the activity within the DISCOVERER framework. This Agency was asked and agreed to assume the same responsibilities with regard to the Supplement that it already carries in the CORONA program. I would hope to receive an indication from you that the plan is satisfactory, either in its present form or with any changes that may be considered desirable.

()

RICHARD M. BISSELL, JR.
Deputy Director
(Plans)

Attachment:



cc: Advanced Research Projects Agency

Distribution:

Cy



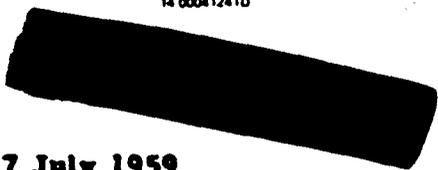
~~TOP SECRET~~

Declassified and Released by the NRO

in Accordance with E.O. 12958

on NOV 26 1991

Copy No.



7 July 1959

SUPPLEMENT TO CORONA PROJECT

1. With the concurrence of the Secretary of Defense, and on his recommendation, it is proposed to include in the series of space vehicle firings under Project CORONA, administered by this Agency and the Advanced Research Projects Agency of the Department of Defense, four additional satellite flights during the summer of 1960 for the purposes of obtaining precise geodetic fixes and an extension of existing datum planes throughout the Soviet Union. Total cost of this project is estimated to be approximately [redacted] to be funded from within current Department of Defense appropriations.

2. This addition to the program is deemed to be one of critical importance to precise location of target complexes associated with the U. S. deterrent posture. It is also considered urgent that this data be obtained at the earliest possible time because of the anticipated availability of a large missile force in the 1961-62 time period and in the light of the possibility that observations of this type may politically and technically be denied at a later time.

3. The program will be administered in the same manner as Project CORONA and within the same organizational framework. The DISCOVERER program will be employed as cover. This new program will, of course, be subject to careful review in the light of the first year's experience with CORONA prior to the initiation of flight operations. Approval of this program is recommended.

[redacted]

Copy No. [redacted]