

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

16 Jun 1965
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MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

SUBJECT: Malfunction in Mission J-1020

Subsequent to the successful recovery on 15 June of the first bucket from CORONA Mission J-1020, telemetry indicated the vehicle was tumbling at a rate of about 6-7 rpm and that all control gas had been exhausted. Because of the latter, restabilization of the spacecraft was impossible.

J-1020 had operated normally for six days without any indications of an impending malfunction. Telemetry received shortly after capsule separation indicated a stable condition in the spacecraft. At the next tracking station contact, several revs later, the vehicle was observed to be in an uncontrolled tumbling state.

Preliminary analysis of telemetry points toward the failure of a 28 volt regulator. This regulator supplies power to the Agena guidance system and failure could result in the condition which now exists.

The second bucket is about 20 percent full of film, some of which was probably taken in the tumbling mode. We will attempt recovery of this bucket using the emergency stabilization system. I will keep you apprised of the situation.

Brockway McMillan

Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

CORONA

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

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