

~~TOP SECRET~~

NR 3

~~SECRET SYSTEM~~
CORONA

(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

May 3, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR DEPUTY SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
DIRECTOR, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

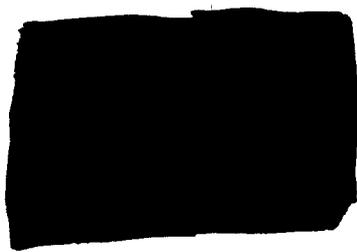
SUBJECT: CORONA Launch Failure

1. CORONA Mission J-1031 failed to reach orbit after launch this afternoon. Preliminary telemetry indicates that the AGENA failed to separate from the THOR after the latter had completed its portion of the boost phase (apparently, the prima-cord separation device failed to function). The AGENA may have ignited on schedule even though separation did not occur. In any event, the net result was a ballistic trajectory into the Pacific. Search aircraft will scour the impact area to insure that no debris remained on the surface.

2. Mission J-1031 was intended as a combination search/surveillance/mapping and charting operation. There is another CORONA mission scheduled later this month against the missile test ranges and launch complexes. At this time, we do not plan to launch the back-up system (at R -9) to replace J-1031.



Major General, USAF
Director, NRO Staff



CORONA



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in Accordance with E. O. 12958

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