

~~TOP SECRET~~



[Redacted]

3 June 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, DFD [Redacted]
SUBJECT : History of CORONA Operations

1. This memorandum is for your information.
2. After the two payload and recovery failures of last November (which followed a three month technical review of the earlier failures) I asked Jim Plummer last December to consider the preparation of an analysis of the program which in one paper would report events as they had occurred since the first abortive launch, analyze the causes of failure and describe the fixes that were applied. I felt intuitively that some day such a document might be very useful to you and that Lockheed, as systems manager, was in such the best position to write it and keep it current.
3. After much prodding the attached was finally produced. I feel that it is only partially responsive and is superficial.
4. It is referred to you now in its present form for your information. Unless you disagree, we will ask that further work be done on it. For example, it should include:
 - (a) An analysis of the technical short cuts taken because of the program's "high risk" character.
 - (b) A financial history showing where the money went and why -- at least, on the black side.
5. Unless you indicate to the contrary, we will assume that you agree with the foregoing and that there are no other areas which you feel should be covered.

Declassified and Released by the NRO

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

[Redacted]
Chief, Development Branch
DFD-DD/P

ATTACHMENT:
As Noted, [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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