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PRIORITY [REDACTED] CITE [REDACTED]

EYES ONLY COL. MURPHY FROM [REDACTED]

REF. A. [REDACTED]

REF. B. [REDACTED]

REF. C. [REDACTED]

I DISCUSSED THE PROBLEM, AS MENTIONED IN REF. A, WITH [REDACTED] [REDACTED] YESTERDAY. I EXPRESSED MY ALARM OVER THE ARMY BYPASSING THE COMOR TO PLACE THEIR REQUIREMENTS ONTO [REDACTED] AND THEREBY CIRCUMVENTING THIS OFFICE IN A STATEMENT OF REQUIREMENTS. HE TOLD ME TO HAVE THE REQUIREMENTS PRESENTED TO THE COMOR FOR THEIR CONSIDERATION. WE HAVE TAKEN STEPS TO OBTAIN FROM DIA THESE REQUIREMENTS AS THEY PERTAIN TO COVERAGE, MINIMUM SUN ANGLE AND MINIMUM NUMBERS OF CELESTIAL BODIES OF SPECIFIED MAGNITUDE TO AID US IN REACHING A DECISION ON INCLINATION ANGLE AND LAUNCH TIME. THE GENERAL ALSO ASKED COL. BUZARD TO OBTAIN FROM [REDACTED] THEIR INPUTS IN ORDER THAT A DECISION CAN BE MADE SOMETIME THIS WEEK. THE GENERAL WAS IN AGREEMENT WITH MY RECOMMENDATION THAT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, THE MISSION BE FLOWN ON THE 115 DEGREE INCLINATION ANGLE RATHER THAN MODIFY EXISTING HARDWARE TO SATISFY THE TURN-AROUND PROBLEM. PLEASE GIVE US YOUR INPUTS AS TO THE AMOUNT OF ASCENDING COVERAGE THAT CAN BE OBTAINED ON A 115 DEGREE INCLINATION ANGLE AND THE MOST SUITABLE LAUNCH TIME TO MAXIMIZE THE ASCENDING AND DESCENDING CAPABILITY. THE ARMY IS MOST CONCERNED ABOUT OBTAINING

Declassified and Released by the N R O

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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MAXIMUM USE OF ASCENDING CAPABILITY AS A METHOD OF INCREASING TOTAL COVERAGE. I SINCERELY DOUBT THAT ANY PASS-BY-PASS PROGRAMMING WILL BE ACCOMPLISHED IN THE NORTHERN HEMISPHERE TO MEET THEIR COVERAGE REQUIREMENTS.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION, I HAVE BEEN INFORMED THAT THE DNRO HAS AGREED ON SECONDARY PAYLOADS TO BE CARRIED ON MISSION 1003. THIS WILL REQUIRE US TO LIMIT OUR ACTIVITIES TO 7 DAYS OF BACK-TO-BACK OPERATION.

THE RESULTS OF 1004-1 REVEAL GOOD PHOTOGRAPHY OF THE FRENCH POLYNESIAN ISLANDS AND, ALTHOUGH THE REQUIREMENT HAS NOT BEEN REMOVED, THE PHOTOGRAPHY DOES SHOW THAT THE IMC PROBLEM WAS NOT PRESENT AND GOOD QUALITY WAS OBTAINED.

I REVIEWED THE PROBLEM OF THE EMPLOYMENT OF THE J CAPABILITY AGAINST INDICATOR TARGETS FOR GUIDANCE AS TO THE DNRO'S DESIRES FOR THE USE OF THE SECOND BUCKET. GENERAL [REDACTED] WAS NON-COMMITTAL, AND REQUESTED THAT I INVESTIGATE THIS AND SUBMIT OUR RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE DNRO'S CONSIDERATION. I PLAN TO DO THIS WITHIN THE NEXT TEN DAYS AND WOULD APPRECIATE ANY INPUTS YOU MAY HAVE ON THIS PROBLEM.

AWAITING YOUR COMMENTS.

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END OF MESSAGE