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10 December 1959

STAFF MEETING MINUTES - 8 December 1959

PRESENT: Mr. Bissell

[redacted]
Mr. Kiefer

[redacted]

Mr. Kelly

[redacted]
Mr. Parangoak
[redacted]

✓ 1. [redacted]

✓ 2. [redacted]

✓ [redacted]

✓ 3. [redacted]

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✓ 6. CORONA AND ARGON MEETINGS - The CORONA and ARGON meetings were held November 30th. Mr. Bissell reported that BMD initially painted an alarming financial picture, but, happily, their report was excessive and that there was little likelihood of the '59-'60 flights being curtailed. However, savings are indicated and in order to save money a decision has been made to close down the Annette tracking station. No CORONA shot will be attempted in December. An attempt will be made to launch one as early as possible in January with camera. It was further revealed at the meeting that we now have flights scheduled to virtually use up all the launch pad

space through October 1960. Future launches will include cameras to determine if malfunctions can be corrected. An all-out R & D program on the cameras is indicated, otherwise, there will be little use in continuing the program. While no firm schedule has been drawn, two launches a month are anticipated. There are to be no ARGON shots before June, after which there should be one ARGON and one CORONA shot a month during the summer.

On 15 December a meeting will be held in Dr. York's office to review CORONA, SAMOS and MIDAS. In this connection, Mr. Bissell summarized the thinking of Dr. Billings to the effect that drastic major cuts should be made in ground handling equipment at this time. The reasoning behind this is that this is an R & D phase insofar as the vehicles are concerned, and, until we actually have the product of the flight in hand, we do not know what intelligence data we will get. The greatest effort on the read-out equipment should take place when the vehicle becomes operational, not during the R & D phase, since the cost becomes tremendous as a continuing operation.

Mr. Bissell further commented that one point of discussion is the proposal to launch five satellites per month to provide a continuing source of information. He commented that in view of our experience with the weather factor he would favor launch, when required, for, say, a five-day orbit period. His final comment on space activity was a warning that we could not give top priority to CORONA, etc., simply because we have part in it and that at all times we should take an objective view in assessing capability.

7. OTHER ITEMS

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✓ (b)

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*****NOTICE OF REMOVED PAGES*****

Pages 4 through 5 are not provided because their full text does not contain CORONA, ARGON, LANYARD programmatic information.