

~~SECRET~~
Copy

22 November 1961

MEMORANDUM FOR : Deputy Director (Plans)
THROUGH : Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P
SUBJECT : Satellite Publicity

1. This memorandum recommends action by the DD/P in paragraph 3, below.

2. The attached two Air Force documents were given me today by ~~_____~~. They represent a change in policy regarding publicity given satellite launching and recovery from one of real time announcements to one of deep secrecy. This is to be applied to SAMOS from now on and it is reportedly Dr. Charyk's view that it should be applied to DISCOVERER as soon as possible.

3. It is claimed that launch-recovery activities cannot be carried out under two different sets of rules regarding publicity. From the ~~_____~~ standpoint, it probably is sensible to handle all publicity in this new fashion; however, from the DISCOVERER standpoint it seems that to suddenly clamp down on all publicity after our past history of open announcements would cause unwanted speculation. This seems to me to be a desirable change for DISCOVERER but not until the DISCOVERER project as such has ostensibly ended in the public view and is referred to only by numerical designators. Unless you would agree to handling DISCOVERER in the new manner at a fairly early time (January 1962), it is recommended that you speak to Dr. Charyk with regard to changing present plans for DISCOVERER.

Dictated, not read
EUGENE P. KIEFER
SA/TA/DPD

EPK/hk

Pls note attached AC/DPD comments.

Distribution:

~~_____~~
~~_____~~
~~_____~~

AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADE:
Reclassify SECRET when
separated from TS attachments.

Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

I should like to add a comment to Mr. Kiefer's remarks here reference submerging the DISCOVERER program at this time. The over-all Agency position has always been to refrain from passing out information except in cases where it is actually required. Since the Department of Defense is now advocating a complete disappearance from the scene of the SAMOS project, it seems that this philosophy parallels our own and that to advocate continued publicity for the DISCOVERER is in fact a contradiction. I would recommend that we concur in moving the DISCOVERER cover posture to parallel the SAMOS but this should be accomplished in a phased manner evaluating each step as it is accomplished. I do not believe this would be particularly out of the ordinary since we are up to 35 DISCOVERER launchings and stories have not varied to any great degree; thus it seems rather natural that repetition of the same type of story would naturally cause a loss in interest and fade from the headlines. In summary, it appears that an agreement to submerge the DISCOVERER program would be consistent with past Agency philosophy, i. e., cover and security, and that this position may avoid a later playback that the Department of Defense security and cover policies are more secure than the Agency's.

[Redacted Signature]

Acting Chief, DPD-DD/P

NEWS RELEASE
PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

HOLD FOR RELEASE
UNTIL LAUNCH

NO. 79-61
OXford 75131

SAMOS

The Department of the Air Force today conducted the second of a series of experimental launchings of the SAMOS satellite. This series will continue over the period required for SAMOS research and development. Today's launching, which took place from the Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello, California, was conducted by the Air Research and Development Command.

The SAMOS satellite is part of a research and development program looking toward improved capabilities for making observations of space, the atmosphere and the nature of the globe.

The SAMOS program is in an early research and development stage and evaluation of the capabilities of SAMOS is not expected to be accomplished for some time.

A Fact Sheet respecting the SAMOS program is attached.

E N D

NEWS RELEASE

PLEASE NOTE DATE



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS
Washington 25, D. C.

HOLD FOR RELEASE
UNTIL LAUNCH

NO. 76-61
OXford 75131

FACT SHEET

SAMOS II

GENERAL INFORMATION

Project SAMOS is a research and development program to determine the capabilities for making observations of space, the atmosphere and the nature of the globe from satellites. The program is under the executive management of the Secretary of the Air Force.

TEST OBJECTIVE

SAMOS II was launched from a USAF launch pad at the Naval Missile Facility, Point Arguello, California, into the Pacific Missile Range to place the vehicle in a near circular polar orbit. The purpose of the initial SAMOS flights is component testing bearing on the engineering feasibility of obtaining an observation capability from an orbiting satellite.

CONFIGURATION

SAMOS employs the AGENA as its second stage. It is boosted out of the atmosphere by a modified Air Force ATLAS, and placed into orbit by the AGENA.

First Stage

Booster.....An Air Force ATLAS modified for the SAMOS vehicle.
Height.....Approximately 77 feet (with adapter section).
Launch Weight....Approximately 262,000 lbs.
Propulsion.....Rocketdyne liquid propellant engine, 356,000 pounds thrust.
Guidance and Control.....The Convair ATLAS booster is equipped with the GE/Burroughs radio command guidance system. The guidance system can detect position and rate, compare this information with the pre-determined trajectory data and command flight correction.

MORE

Satellite Vehicle

The entire Lockheed AGENA second stage becomes the orbiting vehicle.
Height.....About 22 feet
Weight.....Approximately 11,000 lbs. at launch.
 Orbital weight after fuel exhaustion will be approximately 4,100 lbs.
Propulsion....Following coast period after ATLAS burnout, a Bell liquid fuel rocket engine, developing 15,000 lbs. of thrust, will propel the second stage into orbit.
Instrument Test photographic and related equipment
Package.....

TRACKING, TELEMETRY AND COMMAND

a. Primary tracking, telemetry and command during orbit will be performed by:

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg AFB, California
Hawaiian Tracking Station, Kaena, Oahu, Hawaii
Kodiak Tracking Station, Kodiak, Alaska

b. Ascent guidance (booster)

GE Mod II, Vandenberg AFB, California

c. Ascent tracking and telemetry

Vandenberg Tracking Station, Vandenberg, California

d. Downrange Telemetry and Tracking Ship

Richfield

e. Ascent Radar and/or Optical Tracking (FMR)

Point Arguello, California
Point Mugu, California
St. Nicholas Island, California

f. USAF Satellite Test Center, Sunnyvale, California

Control Center receiving all orbital data and exercising command control of SAMOS.

E N D