

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

DATE 2215Z 21 FEB 61

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ROUTING	
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TO DIRECTOR

FROM [REDACTED]

ACTION OPS (1,2,3,4)

INFO VP

OPERATIONAL IMMEDIATE

OPS IMMED

TOR: 2318Z 21 FEB 61

TO [REDACTED]

INFO

CITE [REDACTED]

REF: 9014A

THE FOLLOWING MESSAGE IS QUOTED FOR YOUR INFORMATION.

QUOTE:

PERSONNEL FROM COL BATTLE TO GEN SCHRIEVER. [REDACTED]

CURRENT SITUATION ON DISCOVERER XX IS AS FOLLOWS. WE THINK IT VERY PROBABLE THAT THE ORBITAL TIMER IS JAMMED AND THEREFORE NOT RUNNING. AS A RESULT THE RECOVERY SEQUENCE WILL NOT BE STARTED AND THE AGENA AND CAPSULE WILL RE-ENTER TOGETHER ABOUT SIX MONTHS FROM NOW.

THE TIMER WAS FIRST OBSERVED TO BE STUCK ON PASS 31 AND REMAINED STUCK THROUGH PASS 32. ON PASS 32 THE TEMPERATURES OF THE S-BAND BEACON AND THE TELEMETRY TRANSMITTER WERE RISING RAPIDLY BECAUSE OF CONTINUOUS OPERATION. AT OUR NEXT CONTACT ON PASS 36 THERE WERE NO SIGNALS FROM THE S-BAND BEACON OR TELEMETRY. THE CW BEACON AND APL BEACON CONTINUED TO PLAY. ONLY THESE TWO TRANSMITTERS HAVE BEEN HEARD BY OUR STATIONS SINCE THAT TIME. WE THINK IT MOST LIKELY THAT THE S-BAND BEACON AND TELEMETRY TRANSMITTER ARE BURNED OUT.

Declassified and Released by the NRC

In Accordance with E.O. 12958

NOV 26 1997

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WE HAVE A SINGLE UNCONFIRMED REPORT BY A MIDDLE EAST STATION OF RECEPTION OF A SIGNAL OF POOR QUALITY BUT RESEMBLING OUR TELEMETRY. THE TIME OF RECEPTION FITTED THE POSITION OF THE SATELLITE AT THAT TIME. THIS OCCURRENCE COULD BE EXPLAINED BY A TEMPORARY BURST FROM THE TELEMETRY IN THE PROCESS OF FAILURE. IT MIGHT ALSO INDICATE THE TIMER RUNNING OUT OF PHASE. WE THINK THERE IS VERY LOW PROBABILITY THAT THE TIMER IS RUNNING, BUT TO EXPLORE THIS CASE, ALL STATIONS OF THIS KIND HAVE BEEN ALERTED AND LISTENING SINCE PASS 32. WOOMERA, [REDACTED], PATRICK AND ASCENCION ARE ALSO LISTENING. NO OTHER TELEMETRY TRANSMISSIONS HAVE BEEN HEARD. FURTHER, ON THIS REMOTE PROBABILITY, AIR RESCUE SERVICE, NORAD AND SAC HAVE BEEN ALERTED TO PARTICIPATE IN SEARCH IN CASE WE SHOULD ARRIVE AT SOME IMPACT PREDICTION. ANSWERS TO YOUR SPECIFIC QUESTIONS FOLLOW: WHEN THE POWER SUPPLY IS EXHAUSTED, NO RECOVERY CAN BE INITIATED. EVEN IF PITCH-DOWN HAS STARTED, LOSS OF POWER WOULD STOP THE RECOVERY EVENS AT ANY POINT PRIOR TO ACTUAL SEPARATION. SATELLITE MOTIONS ARE VERY SLOW AND WOULD NOT BE LIKELY TO RESTART THE TIMER. A CAREFUL STUDY OF DESTRUCT SYSTEMS WAS MADE ABOUT 18 MONTHS AGO AND DECIDED AGAINST AS NOT BEING EFFECTIVE ENOUGH WITHOUT A MAJOR EFFORT. DOD RECENTLY MADE ANOTHER STUDY AND REACHED THE SAME CONCLUSION.

TO SUMMARIZE, WE BELIEVE THE CHANCE OF RECOVERY IN THE PREDICTED AREA IS NIL. THE CHANCE THAT THE CAPSULE WILL RE-ENTER THROUGH

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A TRIGGERED RECOVERY SEQUENCE IS QUITE REMOTE. MOST LIKELY, THE AGENA AND CAPSULE WILL REMIAN ON ORBIT FOR SIX MONTHS. WE INTEND TO INFORM THE PRESS BEFORE NOMINAL RECOVERY TIME THAT THERE HAS BEEN AN EQUIPMENT MALFUNCTION WHICH WILL PREVENT RECOVERY AND THEREFORE THE RECOVERY FORCE WILL NOT BE DEPLOYED.

END OF QUOTE.

END OF MESSAGE

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