

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON



OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

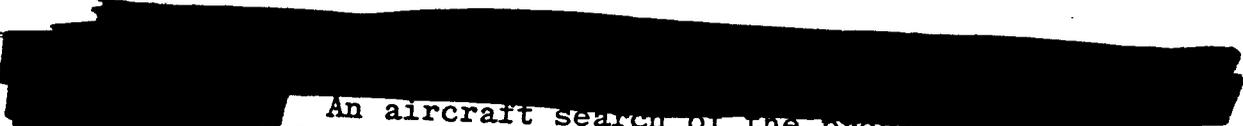
2 November 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY  
PLANNING COMMITTEE

SUBJECT: CORONA/J Mission #1011, Contingency Incident

CORONA/J mission #1011 was launched 5 October 1964. The mission provided for recovery of two separate SRVs containing exposed film. The first was successfully recovered on 10 October; the second failed to respond to recovery sequence tasking on 13 October 1964 and remained in orbit attached to the second stage Agena rocket which houses the camera equipment. Through telemetry, it was concluded that the ablative shield, which protects the SRV from re-entry heat, became disconnected from the SRV as a result of a safety feature built into the recovery sequence, but nevertheless remained attached to the Agena, thereby providing an ablative housing for the SRV, at least for such time as forces of re-entry might effect a disunion of the ablative shield and the SRV from the Agena.

Re-entry resulted from normal orbital decay and impact was computed as having occurred at 0943Z, 26 October (plus or minus 5 minutes) on revolution 329, vehicle travelling north to south, at 75 degrees north, 26.56 degrees west. A visual confirmation of a re-entering object was received from a DEW LINE station at 0941Z.



An aircraft search of the predicted impact area was considered but not instituted due to a combination of unfavorable factors: poor lighting conditions (approximately 16 minutes of 4 degree sun angle a day diminishing to zero by 1 November), deteriorating weather conditions and a possible variance of plus or minus 1500 miles of the actual impact point from the predicted 75 degree latitude impact point.



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Brigadier General, USAF  
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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1991