

DISC.

CLASSIFIED MESSAGE

2314Z 17 MAY 65

~~SECRET~~

ROUTINE	
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3	11
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8	16

DIRECTOR

[REDACTED]

ROUTINE

[REDACTED]

OSA 1-15
Pet

TOR: 2354Z 17 MAY 65

PRIORITY [REDACTED]

INFO [REDACTED]

CITE [REDACTED]

CORONA

FOR [REDACTED] FROM [REDACTED] REF [REDACTED]

1. A WEEK AGO WE CONTACTED THE SPIRDEC (OR TIP) TEAM AT SPADATS AND SORTED OUT THE CELESTIAL RESIDUE OF MSV 1019-2, IN TERMS OF BALLISTIC DESCRIPTIONS OF THE FOUR OBJECTS EXPECTED TO REMAIN IN ORBIT. AT THAT TIME WE DESIGNATED, BY SIZE AND BALLISTIC COEFFICIENT, THE OBJECT OF PRIMARY INTEREST. AN EXCELLENT FIT WAS OBTAINED BY MERGING THE ORBITAL ELEMENTS OBTAINED FROM SEVERAL REVS OF S-BAND TRACKING BY THE SCF, WITH HITS OF THE SUSPECTED R/V MADE BY A SPADATS STATION; THUS THE BUCKET WAS RELIABLY IDENTIFIED INITIALLY.

THE BUCKET ALONE IS IDENTIFIED AS SPADATS OBJECT NUMBER 1367. THE REMAINING THREE OBJECTS (SHIELD, CHUTE COVER AND THRUST CONE) DO NOT AS YET HAVE OFFICIAL OBJECT NUMBERS; THEY WILL BE ASSIGNED NUMBERS AFTER THEIR INDIVIDUAL ELEMENTS ARE ACCURATELY DETERMINED.

3. AT PRESENT THE SITUATION IS AS FOLLOWS: THE THREE UNNUMBERED ITEMS (SHIELD, CHUTE COVER, THRUST CONE) ARE BUNCHED TOGETHER AND THE GROUP HAS PULLED WELL AHEAD OF OBJECT 1367 (BUCKET). PRESENT INDICATIONS

~~SECRET~~

GROUP EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC DOWNGRADING AND DECLASSIFICATION

Declassified and Released by the NRC

Accordance with E.O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

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PAGE TWO

STILL POINT TO 10 JUNE AS THE PROBABLE DATE OF BUCKET RE-ENTRY; HOWEVER AT THIS EARLY STAGE OF PREDICTION, THE DATE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED AS INDICATIVE ONLY, ACCURATE WITHIN A DAY OR TWO ON EITHER SIDE.

END OF MESSAGE

~~SECRET~~