

~~SECRET~~

4 February 1964

MEMORANDUM FOR : Project Headquarters  
SUBJECT : Vehicle 1003, Premature Disconnection of Umbilicals and Security Cover

1. On 20 January at approximately 1040 hours (scheduled launch time was 1330 hours), on pad number 4, VAFB, vehicle number 1003 prematurely disconnected its umbilicals, simultaneously removing the payload security blanket. This failure has not previously occurred, and as of the date of this report the cause of the failure is unknown.

2.

[REDACTED]

3. Operational television cameras which transmit pictures of the vehicle to the blockhouse were immediately adjusted so as not to include a view of the payload area. It is noted that the base photographic unit's moving picture cameras trained on the vehicle were not put into operation - this coverage does not take place until minutes before scheduled launch time.

4.

[REDACTED]

*Deja vu  
of  
normal  
RP  
Security  
blanket*

SOP for reconnecting the umbilicals and security blanket on a "TAT" erect vehicle requires use of "cherry pickers". However, extremely high winds (gusts to 58 knots) precluded this and, in addition, presented real safety problems (the vehicle is reportedly designed to withstand winds up to 47 knots). The vehicle was defueled, "TAT's" removed, and, at about 0400 hours, 21 January, the vehicle was

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In Accordance with E. O. 12958

*Reflected / Security Incident*

NOV 26 1997

lowered and a security cover was installed. Thermal paint had been damaged by the high winds, sand, salt spray, etc., and small amounts of water worked into the vehicle, necessitating return of the instruments to Boston for repair.

6.

