

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

Copy [REDACTED]

9 March 1965

DR. WHEELON:

Subject: CORONA Camera Programs

1. As I discussed with you the other day, [REDACTED] claimed that we could thank Vern Webb for our ability to achieve 75% coverage on the first bucket of 1017.

2. As you requested, I checked today with [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] of LMSC to confirm this statement and obtain the details. The scenario goes something like this -- not attributable to any great ingenuity on Vern's part, but rather his make-up in not taking everything for granted.

At the time that Vern came on board and Col. Murphy was in charge of our AP Facility, the minimum strip which a CORONA pass was programmed for was three degrees.

When Col. Webb got into the saddle, he felt that we could reduce the film waste and in his investigation he discovered that the [REDACTED] was assigning coordinates with their own pad factor in them; to this the AP would add another pad, thus compounding the waste. At the request of Vern, the [REDACTED] was instructed only to give the coordinates of the specific target area and that the AP would put in the necessary margin or pad to insure coverage should there be an abnormality from the planned ephemeris. By doing so, Vern was able to cut down the strip from three degrees to one degree and, at times, has even gone as low as 1/2 degree. In duration of minimum camera on-time, this is a reduction from 70 seconds to 40 seconds. Thus, by reducing the camera on-time per strip, we were able to save sufficient film to increase the actual target coverage by allowing more commands, i.e., 1000 commands a year ago to 2200 on the last mission.

*[Handwritten Signature]*  
JOHN N. McMAHON

[REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~

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