



Handwritten: *Wings*
Stamp: *Handle via Stream Control System*

ZCZCFTC238/231900Z

BT
XXXXX
GUARD 682

WORKING COPY

VAFB

SAFSS

DISTRIBUTION		
SAFSS	A	I
SS-1		
SS-2		
SS-3		
SS-4		
SS-5		
SS-6		
SS-7		
SS-8		
SS-9		
SAFRD-1		
SAFRD-2		
COMP		
SANSL		
AFRDR		
RF		
FILE		

~~SECRET~~ 231745Z DEC 68 CITE [] 0756

CHARGE WHIG
SECUR
CHARGE FOR [] INFO WHIG FOR []
FROM J. SIMONTON
SUBJECT: NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE

THE SUBJECT IS NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF NASA LAUNCHES FROM VAFB. THROUGH LOCAL AGREEMENTS AND IN COMPLIANCE WITH VAFB REGULATIONS AND AFM 207-24 THE TEST WING HAS BEEN ABLE TO CONTROL IMAGE FORMING NEWS MEDIA COVERAGE OF EVENTS ON VAFB IN THE NEAR VICINITY OF 602AJ FACILITIES. IN PARTICULAR NASA DESIRES TO HAVE OPEN COVERAGE OF THEIR LAUNCHES FROM SLC-2E. SO FAR WE HAVE BEEN ABLE TO PREVENT THIS BELIEVING THAT ONCE A NEWSMAN HAS A CAMERA IN THE AREA YOU CANNOT CONTROL WHERE HE POINTS HIS LENS. WE HAVE NOT BEEN SUCCESSFUL IN CONTROLLING THE ACCESS OF NEWS MEDIA PERSONNEL TO THE LAUNCH AREA. NASA HAS A PRESS TRAILER WHICH IS PARKED JUST OUTSIDE THE CAUTION AREAS FROM WHICH THE PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN ALLOWED TO HAVE OPEN TELEPHONES TO BROADCAST STATIONS IN THE LOCAL AND SURROUNDING AREAS. AGAIN, CONTROL OF WHAT IS SAID DURING A REAL TIME BROADCAST IS IMPOS- SIBLE. LOCAL NASA OFFICIALS ARE RELUCTANT, TO SAY THE LEAST, TO

PAGE 2 [] 0756 ~~SECRET~~
TERMINATE SUCH ARRANGEMENTS SINCE THE NASA GUIDELINES INDICATE MAXI- MUM PUBLICITY SHOULD BE OBTAINED FROM EACH OPERATION. EVEN THE PRE- PLANNED RELEASES ARE SOMEWHAT COUNTER TO OUR DESIRES IN PUBLIC INFOR- MATION RELEASES. FOR EXAMPLE QUOTE: ESSA LAUNCH DELAYED AT VANDEN- BERG. VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE (AP) - SPACE OFFICIALS YESTERDAY ANNOUNCED A 24-HOUR DELAY IN TODAY'S SCHEDULED LAUNCH OF THE EIGHTH ESSA WEATER SATELLITE, TOS-F.

Stamp: *SECRET*
Handle via Stream Control System

LAUNCH WITH HIGHER PRIORITY. THE SATELLITE IS NOW SET TO GO UP AT 9:21 A.M. TOMORROW.

Approved for Release: 2019/05/02 C05107100

THE TOS-F, WHICH CARRIES AUTOMATIC PICTURE TRANSMISSION CAMERAS, WILL BE CARRIED ALOFT ON A DELTA ROCKET. UNQUOTE. THE HIGHER PRIORITY LAUNCH WAS CORONA.

ONE OF THE LOCAL NEWSPAPER REPORTERS HAD A ONE LINE "GLIMPSE" IN THE NEXT DAY'S PAPER "TOKYO NEWSMAN AT NASA WEATHER SATELLITE LAUNCH SITE THE MORNING." THE SAME PAPER CARRIED THIS ARTICLE QUOTE: TIROS LAUNCH SCRUBBED FOR SAFETY REASON. FEAR FOR THE SAFETY OF CONSTRUCTION WORKERS ON THE MANNED ORBITING LAB PROJECT ON SOUTH VANDENBERG FIGURED PROMINENTLY IN THE DECISION TO "SCRUB" THE LAUNCH OF A NASA WEATHER SATELLITE FROM HERE TODAY.

COUNTDOWN ON THE TIROS SATELLITE WAS BROUGHT TO WITHIN FIVE

~~SECRET~~
Handle via
Control System

PAGE 3 [] 0756 S E C R E T

MINUTES OF LAUNCH AND HELD WHILE SAFETY OFFICIALS WEIGHED THE DANGERS TO THE WORKERS SHOULD THE VEHICLE HAVE TO BE DESTROYED SHORTLY AFTER LEAVING THE PAD. NASA OFFICIALS SAID THE DECISION TO POSTPONE THE LAUNCH WAS MADE AFTER IT WAS DETERMINED THAT EXTREMELY HIGH WINDS AT HIGH ALTITUDE MIGHT BLOW DEBRIS INTO THE CONSTRUCTION AREA IF AN ABORT TOOK PLACE.

MINUTES BEFORE, A SHIP PASSING THROUGH THE LAUNCH SAFETY ZONE ALSO CAUSED A SHORT DELAY. THE SATELLITE ORIGINALLY HAD BEEN SCHEDULED FOR LAUNCH YESTERDAY BUT WAS POSTPONED TO ALLOW THE AIR FORCE TO LAUNCH A SECRET MILITARY SATELLITE. UNQUOTE.

REQUEST YOU ESTABLISH AN INFORMATION AND NEWS MEDIA POLICY ON VAFB THAT IS APPLICABLE TO ALL INDIVIDUALS AND AGENCIES. THIS SHOULD DEFINITELY BE A WHITE POLICY, WITH WHATEVER CLASSIFICATION YOU DESIRE, TO ENABLE NEGOTIATION WITH THE NASA PERSONNEL AND OTHER NEWS MEDIA AT THIS LEVEL.

THIS SUBJECT IS TIMELY DUE TO THE NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDERWAY WHEREBY NASA IS ATTEMPTING TO ASSUME A GREATER DEGREE OF CONTROL ON SLC 2.

~~SECRET~~
BT

N

N

N

~~SECRET~~
Handle via
Control System