

THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON



JUL 28 1959

Dear Mr. President:

I am forwarding herewith the Military Space Projects Report for the quarter ended June 30, 1959.

The DISCOVERER II satellite was successfully launched into a polar orbit on April 13, 1959, from the Pacific Missile Range. The timer command reset failed to adjust to the actual orbit period, which was less than planned; consequently, the biomedical capsule was not ejected in the planned recovery area. Search operations failed to locate the capsule, after it was reported seen in the Spitzbergen, Norway, area. DISCOVERER III, launched on June 3, 1959, and DISCOVERER IV, launched on June 25, 1959, experienced successful ascent, separation and orbit boost; however, both vehicles failed to achieve orbit. DISCOVERER V, originally scheduled for July 1, 1959, has been postponed until July 28, 1959.

Due to launch pad availability problems and difficulty with the ATLAS-D missile, the first MIDAS (very early warning satellite) launch has been delayed two months to January 1960.

Firm objectives have been established for the SAMOS (reconnaissance satellite) project with polar orbiting satellites capable of performing visual and ferret reconnaissance functions. The first flight is scheduled for April 1960.

The first two of the eight engines for the SATURN (clustered booster) project have been successfully tested at the Army Ballistic Missile Agency. Development of the navigation and communication satellites is in the hardware stage and continues on schedule.

As indicated in my letter transmitting the previous quarterly report, project TIROS (meteorological satellite) was transferred



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to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration effective April 13, 1959. In addition, project CENTAUR, the high energy upper stage, was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration at the close of this quarter.

With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours,

Signed

THOMAS S. GATES

Deputy

1 Incl:  
Report

The President

The White House



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