MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: 20 May 1972 GAMBIT Failure - Contingency Action

This is for your information.

By TWX from SAFSP dated 9 June 1972 (Tab A) we were advised the subject GAMBIT could have decayed in a 26 nm wide corridor beginning off the South East Coast of

Consequent to receipt of the aforementioned information the ICPC Secretariat met on 13 June 1972 and decided to advise State, CIA, DIA and NASA of the probable impact areas and ask their Agencies to request their appropriate elements to determine if there have been reports of spacecraft debris sighting in the corridor and so advise the NRO (Tab B).

The ICPC Secretariat also decided to inform the ICPC Working Group of the reported impact area of the subject GAMBIT, the actions taken in Tab B as well as to notify them that the NRP Satellite Contingency Plan would be implemented if it became necessary (Tab C).
SECRET

The Preliminary Analysis of Mission 4335 Failure to Achieve Orbit was reported in a broad ocean area in the degrees. Both the contractor and aerospace were charged to perform concurrent, but independent, detailed impact analysis. These studies involved numerous re-entry runs in which the injection vector parameters had to be perturbed one-by-one. Both studies have just been completed and yielded the following consistent results:

(a) The most probable impact point is 
(b) The three-sigma perturbed footprint is a 26 n.m. corridor from 

The above information has also been provided to the Blake in an attempt to determine if any ELINT sensor may have detected any signatures related to the vehicle re-entry/impact.

This report will be updated should any new information become available.

SECRET

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE INTERDEPARTMENTAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING COMMITTEE (ICPC) WORKING GROUP

SUBJECT: GAMBIT

The following message has been transmitted to the ECOs of the State Department, DIA, CIA and NASA. This data is provided for your information at this time. In the event it becomes necessary to implement the NRP Satellite Contingency Plan, BYE-12816-71, you will be notified.

"Analysis of available data regarding the failure of the GAMBIT Mission of 20 May 1972 to achieve orbit indicates that debris from the spacecraft may have fallen along

It is requested that you advise concerned subordinate elements to report any information relative to the sighting or reporting of the entry of space debris as specified in paragraph 3.

Inquiries outside the BYEMAN system can include the following information at the SECRET level:

"A classified U.S. spacecraft launched 20 May 1972 failed to achieve orbit. Indications are that debris

Request any information you may receive
or have received concerning the sighting or reporting of the entry of space debris during the time frame 20 May 72 to present. No reference to U. S. satellite operations should be made at the unclassified level".

Please submit any reports to the NRO as soon after received as possible."

Attachment
Membership List
BYE-12880-72
ICPC WORKING GROUP

Mr. Roscoe C. Lewis
Lt Col Gordon Bass

State
CIA (OSA)
DIA

(b)(3)

WORKING PAPERS

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