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DECLASSIFIED BY: C/IART  
DECLASSIFIED ON: 10 JANUARY 2013 **6**



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20301

24 DEC 1980

In Reply Refer To:  
P-60107/80

MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT: SecDef Launch Plan Questions

The Secretary has requested some imagery continuity information on the March launch of GAMBIT. The suspense date to respond to the Secretary is 29 December 1980. We have attached a list of questions to be answered by the NRO. We would appreciate answers to these questions as soon as possible, but no later than close of business on December 29.

Your answers to the attached questions will be used in preparing a memorandum to the Secretary. Your coordination on the memorandum will be requested at that time.

*Peter C. Oleson*  
Peter C. Oleson  
Acting Director for  
Intelligence Policy

*A.J. Tether*  
A.J. Tether  
Director, National  
Intelligence Systems

Enclosure

BYE 066241/80

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CAMRIT

Questions

- What is the exact launch date scheduled for GAMBIT in March?
- How many days before launch must a decision be made to use G-51 or G-52?
- How many days can GAMBIT be held in an "on-pad" launch condition?
- Assuming that GAMBIT is in an "on-pad" launch condition, how long after the launch order is given would launch occur?
- How long after GAMBIT is launched before imaging can take place?
- How long will it take to receive a GAMBIT RV after a decision to de-orbit an RV is given?
- How long to develop and process the film in a RV after it has been physically captured?
- What is the maximum on-orbit life for G-51 and G-52? Does film usage make a difference?

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