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NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE  
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MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Dual Mode GAMBIT Recovery

1. The Dual Mode GAMBIT (DMG) can operate in a high orbit (350-450 nm) for broad area search. Recovery of reentry vehicles (RV) from this high altitude requires altered procedures from normal RV activities.
2. Normal HEXAGON and GAMBIT RV recovery events occur over the CONUS and the Pacific Ocean. The RV events are broadcast on UHF while the RV is on its reentry trajectory. The events are recorded by recovery group aircraft positioned uprange of the recovery area over the Pacific Ocean. Conversely, an RV recovery from a high orbit requires a much earlier separation on the orbital pass which is lined up with the recovery area. As a result, the RV events occur over Europe and are broadcast at time of occurrence.
3. Recording the RV events is a passive, historical activity; ~~commands are not transmitted to the RV. Recording occurs over a~~ specific 30 to 60 second period. The recorded events provide post-recovery analysis data to allow technical evaluation of performance as well as to assist in reconstruction of an errant trajectory to determine an RV's impact point.
4. [REDACTED] wants to record the RV events on high DMG missions by using ARIA aircraft. The aircraft would stage out of [REDACTED]. Consequently, the ARIA activities would have to be coordinated through appropriate channels with foreign governments. Two possible channels have been determined so far. First, the activities could be coordinated through the State Department in an overt manner with the actual mission being handled covertly. A cover story would have to be created

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from its other mission support possibilities. Secondly, the NRO airlift office [REDACTED] may be able to coordinate the mission through the [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] In either case, the ARIA aircraft will need some kind of "cover" since it is distinguishable from a normal C-135 because of its bulbous radar nose.

5. The [REDACTED] point of contact and OPR for this project is [REDACTED]. I have established contact with Mr. [REDACTED] at the State Department. He will assist as necessary and able, if we need their help. His phones are [REDACTED] and KY (secure) is [REDACTED]. [REDACTED] has the action now and will contact us if further help is needed.

6. Security: The recovery activities are DoD-Secret. The ARIA people are cleared only DoD-Secret. [REDACTED] is cleared Byeman and SI/TK (he is the State Representative to COMIREX).

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