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ZNY XXXXX YYY ZNR ZFF-4, ZEL
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FLASH
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FOR MR. ALDRIDGE/J. HILL; FOR GEN KULPA
FROM RC CHRISTIAN
GAMBIT

SUBJECT: GAMBIT 4352-1 RECOVERY

1. THE ATTEMPTED RECOVERY OF GAMBIT 4352-1 HAS BEEN UNSUCCESSFUL. PRELIMINARY DATA INDICATES THAT ARM, TRANSFER, AND SEPARATE COMMANDS EXECUTED PROPERLY BUT THAT THE RETRO ROCKET DID NOT FIRE FOLLOWING REENTRY VEHICLE SEPARATION. WE HAVE CONFIRMED THAT THE REENTRY VEHICLE REMAINS IN ORBIT WITH THE BACKUP DESTRUCT TIMER HAVING INITIATED EJECTION OF THE THRUST CONE AND PARACHUTE ASSEMBLY. MORAO HAS CONFIRMED THROUGH SENSOR TRACKING THAT THE REENTRY VEHICLE REMAINS IN ORBIT IN PROXIMITY TO THE SATELLITE VEHICLE.

2. ON THE HULA PASS FOLLOWING SEPARATION OF THE REENTRY VEHICLE, THE SATELLITE VEHICLE WAS IN AN UNSTABLE CONDITION. ASSESSMENT OF VEHICLE HEALTH AND STATUS IS PRESENTLY IN PROGRESS. I WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF OUR STATUS AS MORE CURRENT INFORMATION BECOMES AVAILABLE.

REVA 21 MAR 02

REO CORRECTION: PRECEDENCE CHANGED TO FLASH.

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NRO APPROVED FOR RELEASE
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DECLASSIFIED ON: 10 JANUARY 2013