

~~TOP SECRET~~

~~TOP SECRET~~

30 January 1963

**MEMORANDUM FOR MR. GILPATRICK**

**SUBJECT: "L" System**

This memo is in response to your query to Captain Houser regarding the nature of the "L" system.

"L" stands for LANYARD. This project was initiated in May 1962, in order to obtain photography at an early date with resolution comparable to that of the discontinued 101B (E-5) project, using the same 66" focal length optical system and some of the camera hardware already produced. The recovery system is the same as that used for CORONA-M. The launch vehicle is a thrust assisted THOR/AGENA. The vehicle will have a 4-day life and should produce photography with a ground resolution of from [redacted] at altitudes of 110-130 nm. Dynamic payload tests recently completed in an altitude chamber have demonstrated a resolution of 80-85 lines per mm.

We are delivering this to you on an EYES ONLY basis since Captain Houser is not cleared for the LANYARD program.

Distribution

- Cy 1 Addressee
- Cy 2 SAFSS-5
- Cy 3 SAFSS-1 (SAFUS)
- Cy 4 SAFSS-1 (C [redacted])
- Cy 5 Dir R/F
- Cy 6 SS R/F

15/  
**PAUL E. WORTHEMAN**  
 Colonel, USAF  
 Deputy Director for Plans  
 and Policy  
 NRO Staff

[redacted]

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy 4 of 6 Copies  
 Page 1 of 1 Pages.  
 [redacted] 1707-63