SATELLITE RECONNAISSANCE PROGRAM RATIONALE FOR FY 1965

The FY 1965 satellite reconnaissance program reflected in the FY 1965 budget breakout included herewith is summarized below for each of the major aspects of the programs.

a. Two standby CORONA J systems are provided during FY 1965 to augment the five standby CORONA M systems provided in FY 1964. These standby systems are intended to provide extra coverage in the event of crisis situations or unexpected difficulties with the main collection effort. They will be used to maintain CORONA vehicles in an R-7 day status.
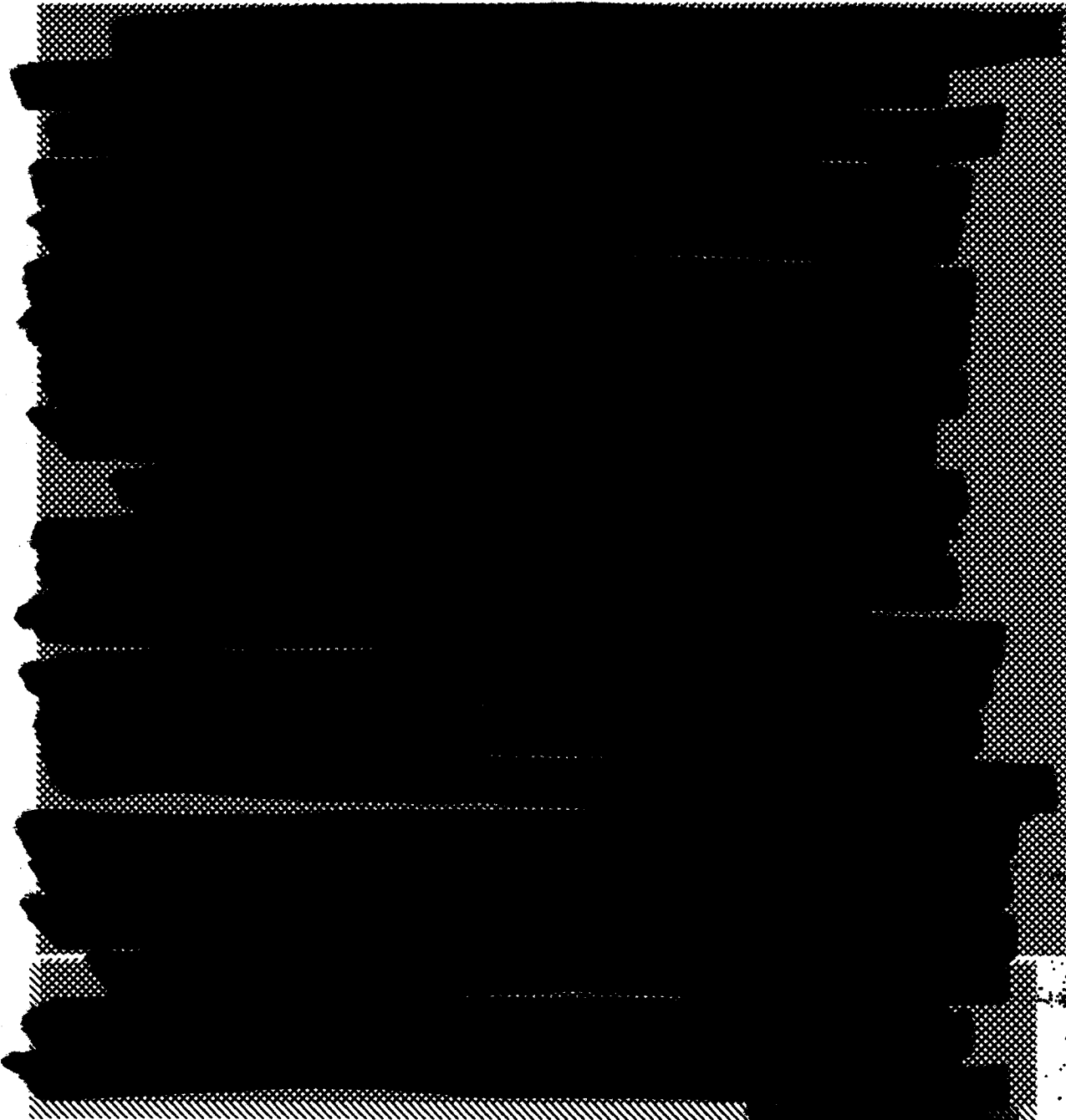
b. The main collection effort for broad coverage, search type photography involves a planned launch rate of one CORONA J system each month throughout FY 1964. This J configuration (presently in flight test) is expected to give two complete photographic missions from one launch and one payload vehicle, with separate capsule recoveries being carried out at intervals up to two weeks apart and result in a substantial improvement in the cost effectiveness of the general effort. It will also be an improvement in our responsiveness and operational effectiveness by providing extended periods during which an operational vehicle is in orbit.

c. ARGON. A total of three spare payloads are provided for the ARGON mapping system for use as required during FY 1965. These payloads can be flown in lieu of a CORONA J or on one of the spare THOR-AGENA vehicles programmed for availability during this period.

d. A total of five spare THOR-AGENA vehicles are to be available for use with the ARGON payloads, any LANYARD payloads that are left over from FY 1964 or for extra CORONA J or SIGINT launch requirements that might arise due to unforeseen emergencies.
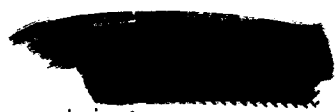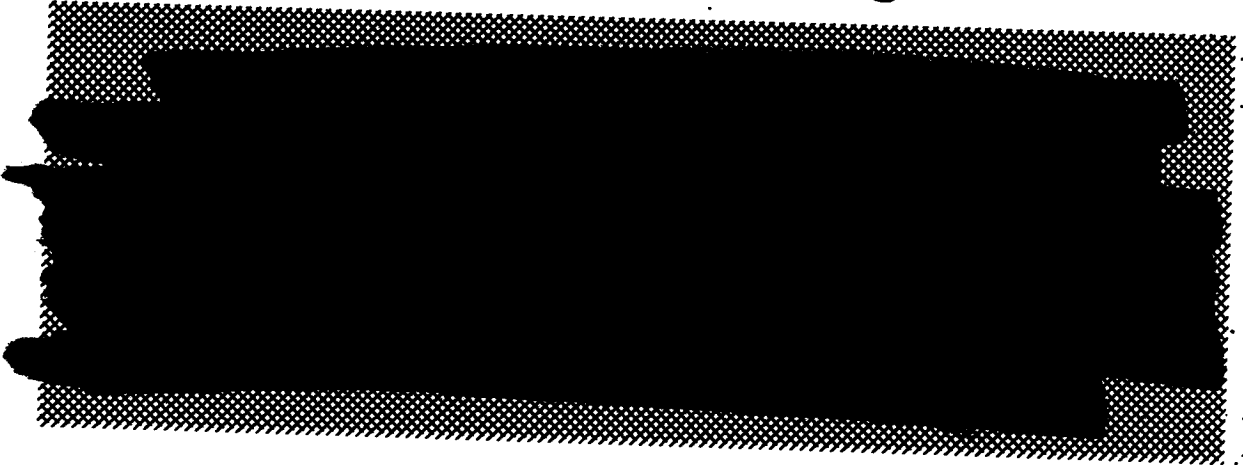
h. Eight 417 weather satellites are planned for FY 1965 to give the weather support required to realize the maximum effectiveness from the photographic collection missions, both satellite and aircraft.

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