

~~TOP SECRET~~

CONTROL SYSTEM

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON



~~RESTRICTED~~


OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

30 April 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. NAKA

One of the items which I think we need to look at has to do with how to reduce the cost of bringing back pictures from space. The way we are operating now we build a high-priced camera, throw it into space, and dump it in the Pacific Ocean a few days later.

There are at least three ways to avoid this waste of expensive cameras: (1) to bring the camera back and re-launch it; (2) to leave the camera up and resupply it in orbit with expendables such as fuel, batteries, and film; and (3) to design a camera whose only required input is electrical power which we can get from solar panels and leave it there for a few years. I would like to see some analysis done on the merits and demerits of these three possibilities.

We can stimulate such studies at  Lockheed, etc., with just a little effort on our part.

  
John L. McLucas

  
HANDLE WITH CARE  
CONTROL SYSTEM

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