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COMDR, AFHQ, HQ. ARDC, LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA

COMDR, ARDC
ANDREWS AFB, MARYLAND

~~SECRET~~/RADNOTE. PERSONAL TO SCHRIEVER FROM RITLAND.

IT IS GENERALLY AGREED BY LMSD AND US THAT DISCOVERER III DID NOT
ACHIEVE ORBIT TODAY. TO GIVE YOU THE DETAILS THE COUNTDOWN, WHICH
STARTED AT 2AM PDT, PROCEEDED ON OR AHEAD OF SCHEDULE DOWN TO THE
POINT OF START OF AUTOMATIC SEQUENCE ON THE THOR. AT THIS POINT
THERE WAS A HOLD, FIRST FOR WEATHER AND THEN TO WAIT FOR TRAINS TO
CLEAR THE AREA FOR A TOTAL OF APPROXIMATELY 3 HOURS. WHEN THE
COUNT WAS RESUMED IT PROCEEDED EXACTLY AS PLANNED WITH NO TECHNICAL
DIFFICULTIES ON EITHER THE THOR OR THE DISCOVERER. LIFT OFF
OCCURRED AT 1309 PDT AND THE NORMAL SEQUENCE OF EVENTS ON BOTH
THOR AND DISCOVERER FOLLOWED THROUGH DISCOVERER BURNOUT. HOWEVER
AFTER DISCOVERER IGNITION RADAR DATA FROM BOTH PT. MUGU AND
VANDENBERG TRACK BECAME ERRATIC AND RADAR LOCK ON WAS LOST; THE
TRACKING STATIONS AND THE TELEMETRY SHIP STATIONED 1000 MILES DOWN

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JUNE 1959

WDZND

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WDZU-697
Cg No. 2

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RANGE CONTINUED TO RECEIVE THE ACQUISITION BEACON AND THE TELEMETRY TRANSMISSION UNTIL 13 MINUTES AFTER LAUNCH. BASED ON THIS TELEMETRY WE PREDICTED AN ORBIT WITH PERIGEE 278 STATUTE MILES, APOGEE 380 STATUTE MILES AND PERIOD 93.3 MINUTES. THIS INFORMATION WAS PROVED WRONG WHEN NONE OF OUR TRACKING STATIONS EVER ACQUIRED THE SATELLITE OR RECEIVED ANY OF ITS TRANSMISSIONS. THE DETAILED ANALYSIS OF THE TELEMETRY AND RADAR DATA IS PROCEEDING. THE MUGU RADAR DATA WHICH IS EXTREMELY ROUGH INDICATES THAT A NEGATIVE FLIGHT PATH ANGLE MAY HAVE OCCURED AT INJECTION. FURTHER STUDY OF RADAR AND TELEMETRY DATA IS REQUIRED TO ESTABLISH THAT WE DID HAVE A NEGATIVE ANGLE AND TO DETERMINE ITS CAUSE. UNLIKE THE DISCOVERER I SITUATION WE DO HAVE A LARGE AMOUNT OF GOOD TELEMETRY DATA TO REDUCE AND ANALYZE: VANDENBERG TELEMETRY FROM LAUNCH TO PLUS 579 SEC. MUGU TELEMETRY FROM LAUNCH TO PLUS 515 SEC. TELEMETRY SHIP FROM PLUS 255 SEC TO 793 SEC. THIS CARRIES US WELL PAST THE POINT OF ORBIT INJECTION WHICH SHOULD HAVE OCCURRED AT 400 SECONDS AFTER LAUNCH. TELEMETRY ANALYSIS AT LMSD IS CONTINUING THROUGHOUT THE NIGHT. THE DATA GIVEN ABOVE IS BASED ON A 1730 PDT REPORT BY LMSD. ANOTHER REPORT IS DUE AT 2130 PDT. DATA FROM THE TELEMETRY SHIP WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE UNTIL TOMORROW. I WILL KEEP YOU ADVISED OF DEVELOPMENTS

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