

~~SECRET~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~  
COR - 1573  
COPY 5 of 6

16 March 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR : Assistant Chief, DFD-DB/P

SUBJECT : Radar Tracking of DISCOVERER Parts

In discussions with Mr. [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] it was learned that space tracking radar has been used to track camera doors and other parts of the DISCOVERER vehicle. The camera doors are presently ejected after orbit is obtained. These doors vary in size from about 6" by 6" to 12" by 24" very roughly. Comments have been heard through the "white" side of DISCOVERER that our vehicle is coming apart. SMD has been investigating this problem from a security standpoint, but more important is the ability of existing space track radars to detect objects this small at altitudes above 100 miles. I do not have any specific data on types of radar accomplishing this feat but I am attempting to obtain this from SMD. I do not think this is too surprising when each one of these doors probably makes a perfect corner reflector for radar.

SECRET

[REDACTED]  
Major [REDACTED]

Distribution:

2-ASST CH/DFD

3-DB/DFD

1-SMD/DFD

5-XI/DFD

6-DB/DFD/Chrono

DFD/DB/ [REDACTED]

~~SECRET~~