DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF UNITED STATES AIR FORCE WASHINGTON, D. C.

Honorable James H. Douglas

Deputy Secretary of Defense

Dear Mr. Secretary

In order to reach you, this letter will have flown a distance of almost one-half million miles both within and without the earth's atmosphere, travelling over 17 times around the world at speeds greater than 18,000 miles per hour. Contained in the DISCOVERER satellite, it will have been Isunched by the United States Air Force into an orbit about the earth from Vendenberg Air Force Base, California, and recovered in the mid-Pacific.

This is the first time that letters have been sent by a satellite and is in the tradition of airmen who less than thirty years ago pioneered in the first use of airmail.

This remarkable achievement could not have been accomplished without the dedication of a great many people from Congress, from science, from industry, from the Services, and from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. We are grateful to all who have had a part in bringing this Mation one step nearer to man's transcendence over the limits of the earth.

Sincerely

THOMAS D. WHITE

161633 AC - STATE WALL --- Shown here is a letter Deputy Secretary of Befores, James H. Douglas received which was delivered to min by hir force Chief of Staff, denoral Thomas D. White, Ballouing a mently said salling mile trip thereon space in a capsule aboard the Air Force MILCOVERE IVII. The satellite was paperantally landshed from Vandenberg Air Porce Base at 12:43 FM, FET, an Movember 15, 1969. The captule was relessed during the list pass around the earth and was erocosefully retrieved at 3:05 ff, PST, by a 8-439 she Captain Gene W. Jones from Malle Mile, (Contains of letter). decision tor

PLEASE CREDIT: "CIPICIAL U. .. AIR FORC PROSO".

AIR FORCE PHOTO

United States Air Force

*

66-170 White



2640 X 4.0.

SPACE Milliance. Secretary of the Air Porce, Dulley G. Sharp, receives a letter delivered to him by Air Porce Chief of Shaff, Seneral Thomas D. White, following a manky one willian wile true through space in a separal about the Air Porce Missouring 1972. The satallite was succeedably leasted from Vendenberg Air Porce Space at 12:43 PM, PST, on November 15, 1960. The objects was returned during the Jist pass around the earth and was successfully retrieved at 3:05 PM, PST, by a G-119 fixed by United Sone V. Jones from Walls While, Mostington.

OFFICIAL U.S. AIR PORCE PROTO, RELEASED BY THE DEPT. OF DEPENDE.

/(L/): 700 V - /39

RETURN TO
HO, UKAFHRE
MAXWELL AFB, AL 36112

1

LG-D70 White DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR PORCE
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF OF STAFF
UNITED STATES AIR PORCE
WASHINGTON, D. C.

OFFICIAL SUSPENIES





VIA
DISCOVERER XVII
LAUMCHED PROM VANDERHERG AIR FORCE BASES

Honorable James H. Douglas Deputy Secretary of Defense Washington 25, D. C.

FIRST AIR MAIL
OUTER SPACE

A-16k633 A.C. - Shown have is the cavalope of a latter Deputy Secretary of Influence, James H. Banglas received, delivered to the by Air Prive Olide of Staff, General Thomas B. Watte, following a searty one milition will not by Airon (March 1900) and a search of the Common of the Air Perce MECONSMINITI. The entailities was secretarily lamented from Vandenburg Air Perce Dane at 18th Pin, Pot, on November 15, 1960. The capsules was related during the lists pape around the certain and was entertaility retribeted at 18th Pin, by a C-130 Stem by Ospitalin Olma V. Joune from Maglia Units, Washington.

Platers CRIDET: "OFFI CEAL U.S. AIR FORDS MEDIO".

**CAPTURE CRIDET: "OFFI CEAL U.S. AIR FORDS MEDION CO. AIR STAND CO.



164629 AC - Space Mail.....Vice Chief of Staff, General Curties E. LeMay, receives a letter delivered to him by Air Force Chief of Staff, General. Thomas D. White, fellowing a nearly one million wile trip through space in a capsule abound the Air Force DESCOVFRER WIL. The satellite was successfully leanned from Vandenburg AFB at 12:43 PM, PET, on Nov. 15, 1960. The capsule was released during the 31st pass around the earth and was successfully retrieved at 3:05 PM, PET, by a -129 flown by Capt. Gase W. Jours from Walla Walla, Washington.

"U.S. AIR PORCE PHOTO"

2/AXWV n OH
61-4006 391

. . . .

ENLTOOT9