

85

~~SECRET~~

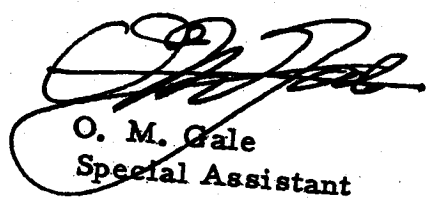
WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

11 June 1959

MEMO FOR Mr. Albert P. Toner
The White House

The attached additional items are submitted by the Department of Defense for possible inclusion in the daily summary for the President.

Items 3 and 4 have also been sent to Dr. Killian.


O. M. Gale
Special Assistant

3 Attachments
(# 3, 4 & 5)

(nos 1 + 2 sent earlier)

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WHEN WITH ATTACHMENTS

3:25p

SecDef Cont. No. S-855

06-M-0880
R-2

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3. DISCOVERER III Evaluation and DISCOVERER IV Schedule

~~(Secret)~~

(Reference Item 2, June 4, 1959 Report)

DISCOVERER III was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 1609 EDT on 3 June 1959. Preliminary study of radar and telemetry data and failure to acquire the vehicle by tracking stations brought the conclusion within 24 hours that the vehicle did not attain orbit.

Exhaustive examination into all data reveals that all subsystems performed properly except propulsion and radar track. Failure to attain orbit was due to a combination of two events, (1) incorrect radar data upon which time-to-fire and velocity-to-be-gained commands were sent to the satellite and (2) a less than nominal performance of the orbital stage propulsion system, which cut off slightly early. Neither of these events by itself would have prevented orbit attainment.

The radar problem is being resolved by changes in tracking procedures. The propulsion problem appears minor, yet is being subjected to further analysis.

Preparation of the DISCOVERER IV vehicle has been delayed by both the extended launch effort on DISCOVERER III and the possible need to apply its test results. DISCOVERER IV launch has been tentatively rescheduled from 18 June to 24 June. Confirmation of launch date will be made on June 17. If everything is in order at that time, consideration may be given to launch on 22 June.

(Carbon destroyed 6/12/59)

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3:20 P
DoD 6-11-59

5-8.17