

95

~~SECRET~~

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

December 21, 1960

MEMO FOR MR. CHRISTOPHER H. RUSSELL

THE WHITE HOUSE

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

These items have also been forwarded to Dr. Kistiakowsky.

*[Signature]*  
George S. Brown  
Brigadier General, USAF  
Military Assistant

2 Attachment *items*  
2-SN#876

~~SECRET~~

FORM WITH ATTACHMENTS 11:45a

SecDef Cont. No. S-1058

R-2  
06-M-0890

2. Launch of DISCOVERER XIX. ~~(SECRET)~~

DISCOVERER XIX was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base at 1537 EST, 20 December 1960. Confirmation of orbit of this, the 4th AGENA B and the second to be launched by a THOR DM-21, was obtained at 1704 EST, 20 December 1960. The planned and actual parameters for this satellite are as follows:

	<u>Planned</u>	<u>Actual</u>
Period	93.0	92.96
Perigee	113 n.m.	103.9 n.m.
Apogee	345 n.m.	348 n.m.
Eccentricity	.032	.033
Inclination	81.8°	83.43°

SN# 879

The DISCOVERER payload for this flight operation will be a non-recoverable MIDAS radiometer with an active orbit lifetime of 4 days. This test will be first of a series of two radiometric engineering tests, purpose of which is to intensify collection of radiation background data during time period of 2 to 4 months prior to the launch of MIDAS III. Attempts will be made to obtain usable background radiation data in 2.7 and 4.3 micron infrared bands by demonstrating the capability of the MIDAS type radiometer operating in conjunction with the DISCOVERER satellite system. Four additional telemetry receiving stations will be used to augment the DISCOVERER tracking station network to acquire radiation data over more diversified areas of the world. These stations are located at Cape Canaveral, Ascension Island, Thule, Greenland, and Woomera, Australia.

The AGENA satellite is definitely unstable in its present orbit. No reason for this is know at the moment. This instability will not seriously affect the MIDAS experiment and some useful data should result from this test.

*(Carbon destroyed 12/21/60)*