

ADVANCED

ACTS AGENCY

*Can SITE PHASE
Review*

13 February 1959

EPR

MEMORANDUM FOR THE UNDER SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE

SUBJECT: Recovery Plan for DISCOVERER

Reference is made to Message DEF 953288 of 12 January 1959 and to the Discoverer Development Plan submitted to ARPA on 12 February 1959.

I am deeply concerned about the apparent lack of a complete positive recovery plan for the Discoverer program. Since successful recovery is such a vital part of this program it is extremely important that we do everything possible to insure the maximum probability of success. I have not yet been informed concerning any action which may have been taken in response to the referenced message, nor is there any detailed treatment of the recovery operations in the Development Plan. It would appear from information gleaned so far that the air recovery operations are considerably short of being 100% reliable. For the time being the destroyer support being provided by the Navy is adequate backup. However, there is no assurance that the destroyer support will be available beyond 1 July and we have already passed the critical point in time to provide modified, equipped MSTs ships by 1 July.

I would like to be informed as soon as possible on the following:

- a. Technical status of the air recovery operations together with an assessment of the degree of reliability of the air recovery operations.
- b. Specific plans for the future to insure having ship support backup if necessary.
- c. A statement concerning ARPA assistance if required.

DOWNGRADED AT 3 YEAR INTERVALS
DECLASSIFIED AFTER 12 YEARS.
DOD DIR 5200.10

Thermafax copy to Gen Schriever
from AFGM-A

Roy W. Johnson
Director

[Redacted]

*Tux - ON FILE
LOST.
Follow up
BRIEF.*

*SEE TWR
57013,
Feb 59*

59-01278