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TAGBOARD

181 NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

WASHINGTON, D.C.

BYEMAN CONTROL SYSTEM



PRO E 2-111

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. NITZE
MR. HELMS
DR. HORNIG

July 9, 1968

SUBJECT: TAGBOARD Launch July 1, 1968

TAGBOARD drone #514 was launched over the Pacific Missile Range from the B-52 mother aircraft at 40,000 feet, Mach .85, 1700 hours, July 1, 1968. The proposed drone profile was approximately 400 nautical miles down range and then into a circular course around the ship "Range Tracker" at a constant 3.25 Mach. Separation from the launch vehicle, booster ignition, initial climb and acceleration to 84,000 feet and Mach 3.4 were as programmed. Just prior to scheduled booster separation, the drone made two complete rolls during which time the booster was jettisoned. Although booster separation occurred on schedule, the drone was almost inverted, fuel tanks were ruptured and fuel was lost. After booster separation, the drone attempted to fly and reached a level altitude within five degrees laterally but at too low an altitude and air speed to ignite the ramjet engine.

Command and control was successfully accomplished with hatch ejection and subsequent drone destruction.

Hatch recovery was effected by surface vessel.

Analysis of telemetry data and the recovered autopilot reveals autopilot gain was insufficient during the pushover phase of the launch to prevent the resultant rolling maneuvers.

Action is being taken to correct the autopilot deficiency and the next launch is tentatively scheduled for July 24, 1968.

Alexander H. Flax

ALEXANDER H. FLAX

HANDLE VIA
BYEMAN
CONTROL SYSTEM

TAGBOARD

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