FOO AID OCH	Original to be Fire In Descriptive Liles. FILE DESIGNATION - SECRET CA-3148 HANOLING INDICATOR TO : Amembassy SANTIAGO SAF-SI, PERIOD CA-517
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	INFO: Amembassy LONDON, CINCPAC FOR-3 - 45 CO D LV
	Oct 22 10 os AH 266
H GOM FRB INT	FROM : Department of State DATE:
D TAR TR XMD	
OSO PANY PIARA,	SUBJECT: Use of Easter Island for MOL Program
135	REF
3 3 15 12	□ state/defense message
2011 11-11-1	
SEESTED DISTRIBUTION	1. DOD Manned Orbiting Laboratory (MOL) Program involves following objectives: (a) to learn more about man's
	ability in space and how that ability can be used for military purposes, (b) to develop technology and equip-
	ment which will help advance manned and unmanned flight, To
(\mathfrak{D})	and (c) to experiment with this technology and equipment.
,69	Flights will be launched on southerly azimuth from Western Test Range in California. Although not very
POST BOUTING	probable, spacecraft could be forced down during ascent
2: Action Info. Initials	anywhere along course being overflown. Recovery forces
u \	need to be positioned so that, if abort should occur,. spacecraft can be located, on-scene assistance provided,
	and retrieval accomplished in shortest time possible.
on:	To provide recovery capability, downrange staging area
1	for aircraft and helicopters is needed.
	2. USAF desires use Easter Island as aircraft staging
	area. Facilities needed consist of hard surface airstrip
	approximately 6600 feet long, lighting and navigation
	aids, communications, crash and rescue services, storage
	space, fuel storage, aircraft maintenance, temporary shel-
an Tekan:	parking space for about 8 or 9 aircraft and helicopters,
	GROUP 1 Excluded from automatic
	downgrading and
dis:	FORM DE 200 declassification Succession For Department Use Only
OD/ŠAFUS - PFI	Design S. A. Living Con Constitution Approved per
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electricic power, water and medical facilities. During Mil-Javic A operations, aircraft-end-men would normally be decoyed to Easter Island for a few days, but possibly up to three weeks if Jaunch postponed. After MOL launch, aircraft and men would depose leaving special MOL facilities in caretaker status. Operational date for staging area is approximately April 1, 1969 and would continue at least through 1970 with launches at about 3 or 4 month intervals.

- 3. Many facilities needed for MOL staging area will be constructed at Easter Island permanent facilities and relatively complete support. Additional support needed for MOL and to be supplied by DOD consists of (a) application of hard surface to airstrip, (b) additional aircraft parking area, (c) storage shelter, (d) additional aircraft fuel storage tank, and (e) austere living and messing facilities for periodic temporary operating force. Only alternative site for staging area, Kenderson Island (Piccoirn), would require much more construction. Use of Easter Island would, therefore, result in substantial financial savings.
- 4. Satablishment of this station is not in itself sensitive element of MOL program and would be classified primarily to woic premature speculation in news media. Operating party would, however, have classified material and would receive and send classified communications, thus requiring right of entry without customs or other inspections.
- 5. Request Embassy seek GOC approval for MOL staging area at Easter Island. Embassy may brief, on classified basis, appropriate GOC officials on MOL program generally and specific activities we wish established at Easter Island. In describing proposed MOL plans for Easter Island, Embassy should not refer except to those few GOC officials briefed on

Unless

SECRET

Emissy sees some objection, we think exchange of letters, tailoued to meet MOL needs, between USAF Chief of Staff and the Commanding Officer. Air Force of Chile.

would be appropriate. Will such an exchange insure GCC providing necessary duty free exemption?

KATZENBACH, ACTING

Clearances:
AMA/RC - Mr. Fimbres/
AMA/RA - Mr. Sharp?
AMA - Mr. Dick:
CAM - Mr. Lee;
AMA/RA - Mr. Judd
L/T - Mrs. McDowell4

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