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14000-70-3

PROPOSED INFORMATION PLAN FOR PROJECT DISCOVERY

A. OBJECTIVE OF PROJECT DISCOVERY

Beginning in late 1958 and extending into 1959, a series of satellites will be launched from the new Pacific Missile Range at Camp Vandenberg, California. These satellites will be powered by the Thor missile with a new high energy upper stage known as the Bell Booster. As such, the program is, in certain respects, a follow-on vehicle program to the Thor-able combination.

The project is divided into two distinct phases:

1. The first two flights will orbit 300 pound telemetry payloads into 300 mile orbits with orbital lives of perhaps 10 days. These first two flights will provide tests of hardware and payload components and also of the instrumentation and facilities of the Pacific Missile Range and its complex of ground environment stations located in Alaska, Hawaii and possibly the Antarctic.

2. Depending upon success obtained by the first 5-7 flights, additional launchings of the DISCOVERY series will take place during 1959 to place up to 500 pound recoverable satellite packages into 300 mile orbits having 24-48 hour orbital lives with planned recovery by aircraft or naval vessels upon signal by one or another of the available ground stations. These flights will comprise a series of biomedical experiments with man contact possible; later flights also containing Primates.

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No follow-on program will be finalized prior to the successful completion of at least five flights. Data derived from the program will be applied to reentry and recoverable satellite space programs of the DOD and NASA.

B. PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS:

1. The objective of this information plan is to insure that the various launchings in Project DISCOVERY receive news treatment related to their actual missions. Public releases on the project will be strictly controlled to insure such treatment. In particular, these flights must be disassociated with any U.S. reconnaissance program for which they have no capability.

2. In recognition of the fact that the first two DISCOVERY launchings have missions distinctly separate from those of the remaining launchings in the series, this public information plan, aside from an initial general release (Tab A), applies to the first two launchings only. Following successful completion of the first two launches or of the component and range test program, a comprehensive public information plan to apply to the follow-on reentry and recoverable satellite launches for biomedical experiments will be issued by DOD/ARPA. Until release of this second plan, no follow-on announcements relating to the biomedical DISCOVERY project will be issued. Issuance of the over-all plan is not being accomplished at this time because of the requirement that such a plan will await results of the first two launchings. Until release by DOD/ARPA, the follow-on program, other than the ARPA release at Tab A, will be classified Confidential.

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3. As regards the first phase of project DISCOVERY, no releases or public briefings beyond the release and questions in Tab A will be made until after the first satellite launching has taken place.

4. The actual launch of the first DISCOVERY satellite vehicle should be treated in accordance with procedures established herein.

a. Should the vehicle fall within site of the launching area or prior to achievement of conditions which might lead PMR to believe the payload was in orbit, the statement provided in Tab B should be made by the Commander, PMR. No other releases should be made.

b. Should the vehicle fail to place the satellite in orbit, but should conditions exist which require determination of this fact in interrogation of tracking stations during a time period required for one or more revolutions of the payload, the statement attached in Tab B will be made by the Commander, PMR. At the time of this release, fact sheets may also be made available to the public concerning the ground environment of the PMR and its associated tracking network.

c. Should the vehicle be successful in placing the payload in orbit, a press conference will be held at the PMR as soon as orbit is determined. Participating in this press conference will be the Director, ARPA, Commander, ARDC; Commander, BMD, or their representatives. The press conference will be initiated by the Director, ARPA, who will make an announcement within the limits of Tab C. Public statements by these officials will emphasize the range and component test aspects of the launching. At the conclusion of the press conference, fact sheets will be made available.

at PMR and the Department of Defense, Washington, including data on the objectives of the launching, the booster and payload utilized, the organizations involved, and the PMR and its associated tracking stations. No indication will be given of future schedules nor will the facts relating to the second phase be elaborated upon. Analysis of telemetry and other data obtained from instrumentation of the vehicle may be released as appropriate. Interested agencies will develop and submit all proposed releases and fact sheets to DOD/ARPA where they will be approved prior to issuance.

5. Public release of information on the launching of the second DISCOVERY vehicle in December of 1958 or January 1959 should be in accordance with the procedures established herein for the launch of the first vehicle. However, in view of the fact that a new situation will pertain insofar as public information statements are concerned, Tabs D and E will be substituted for Tabs B and C., respectively.

The press conference at PMR to be initiated by the statement in Tab E will conform to the tone of this statement. The same guidance will pertain for fact sheets to be issued at PMR and DOD, Washington, in the event of a successful launch.

No information will be given of future schedules or about the second phase of the DISCOVERY project.

6. This press plan, upon receipt of policy approval within OSD, including ASD (PA) and within the OCB, will be personally presented to

all interested operating elements of Douglas, PMR, etc., and details thoroughly coordinated by a designated ARPA representative. Personal data, home town color, and exhibits will be developed in support of this plan by Commander, BMD.

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TAB B

Under the direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force launched the first of the "DISCOVERY" vehicles for test purposes at _____ hours today from the PMR at Camp Vandenberg, California. The vehicle in its first test launch, (exploded on the launch pad, failed after _____ seconds of powered flight and destroyed itself, exploded after _____ seconds of powered flight, veered off course after _____ seconds of powered flight and was destroyed, failed to orbit the satellite although the launch appeared perfect).

The launching was intended not only as an initial test of the Xerox DISCOVERY vehicle but also to test the tracking, telemetry, and range safety facilities of the PMR. (The flight of the vehicle was successfully telemetered and tracked by the facilities of the range until missile failure, until communications with the satellite were lost _____ minutes after launch). Data is being analyzed to determine cause of (malfunction, failure to orbit the satellite).

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TAB C

Under the direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, at _____ hours today at the new Pacific Missile Range, the Air Force launched a 300 pound earth satellite using the new DISCOVERY booster system to place the payload in a unique polar orbit.

The satellite, having a period of _____ minutes, was placed into a nearly circular 300 mile orbit and is expected to have a life of about 2-5 weeks. The payload contains a power supply and communications and telemetry equipment only. No scientific experiments are included because of the extent of internal telemetry components needed for test purposes.

The objective of this latest U.S. satellite is two-fold, and complete success has already been achieved on both counts. First, the DISCOVERY launching vehicle functioned perfectly in this first test flight. Second, the satellite was launched to test the tracking, telemetry, and range safety facilities of the PMR and its associated tracking network. This network has stations in Alaska, Hawaii. All functioned, and are functioning as planned.

This is the world's first satellite with a polar orbit and its nearly circular orbit is testimony to the advancement in U.S. missile guidance and control techniques. This orbit is derived from the location of Camp Vandenberg and the PMR.

The DISCOVERY booster gives the United States an improved vehicle for future space programs. This new combination was developed by the BMD of the Air Force under ARPA sponsorship.

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TAB 2

Under the direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, the Air Force launched a second DISCOVERY test vehicle at _____ hours today from the Pacific Missile Range at Camp Vandenberg, California. In its second test launch, the vehicle (exploded on the launch pad, failed after _____ seconds of powered flight and destroyed itself, exploded after _____ seconds of powered flight, veered off course after _____ seconds of powered flight and was destroyed, failed to orbit the satellite although the launch appeared perfect). As with the first launching day's event it was intended not only as an additional test of the DISCOVERY vehicle but also as a further test of tracking, telemetry and range safety facilities of the PMR. (The flight of the vehicle was successfully telemetered and tracked by the facilities of the range until missile failure, until communications with the satellite were lost _____ minutes after launch). Data is being analyzed to determine cause of (the malfunction, failure to orbit the satellite).

The initial launch of the DISCOVERY vehicle took place on _____ Nov. 1957, and resulted in (failure as the booster blew up on the launch pad, failure as the booster blew after _____ seconds of powered flight, partial success as the booster was destroyed after _____ seconds of powered flight, complete success as the booster placed a 500 pound test payload into a nearly circular polar orbit).

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TABLE

Under the direction of the Advanced Research Projects Agency, at _____ hours today at the new Pacific Missile Range, the Air Force launched a 500 pound earth satellite using the new DISCOVERY vehicle to place an instrumented payload in a unique polar orbit. (This success comes after the initial attempt to launch a similar satellite on _____ Nov, 1958. This marks the second successful launch of a 500 pound earth satellite using the DISCOVERY booster system within a period of two months). The satellite, having a period of _____ minutes was placed into a nearly circular 30% incline orbit and is expected to have a life of about two years. The payload contains a power supply and communications and telemetry equipment (similar to those contained in the first DISCOVERY satellites). As with the first DISCOVERY launching, the objective of this latest satellite was two-fold and (again) complete success has already been achieved on both counts. First, the DISCOVERY launching vehicle functioned perfectly in the vehicle's second successive test flight, and we are satisfied that it has demonstrated its application for future U.S. space programs. Second, the satellite was launched as an additional test of the tracking telemetry and range safety facilities of the PMR and its associated tracking network. This network, with stations in Alaska, Hawaii and the Antarctic, (again) functioned and is functioning as planned. This is the world's second satellite with a polar orbit. The fact that we have again attained a nearly circular orbit is a great compliment to the work that has been done on the part of the U.S. missile organizations in the development of guidance and control techniques.

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