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ACSI-CY

20 JUL 1962



MEMORANDUM FOR: CHAIRMAN, COMMITTEE ON OVERHEAD RECONNAISSANCE

SUBJECT: ARGON Schedule

1. References:

a. USIB-D-41.5/5 (COMOR D-43/6) 27 June 1962, subject: "Evaluation of the First ARGON Mission and Proposed Future Schedule."

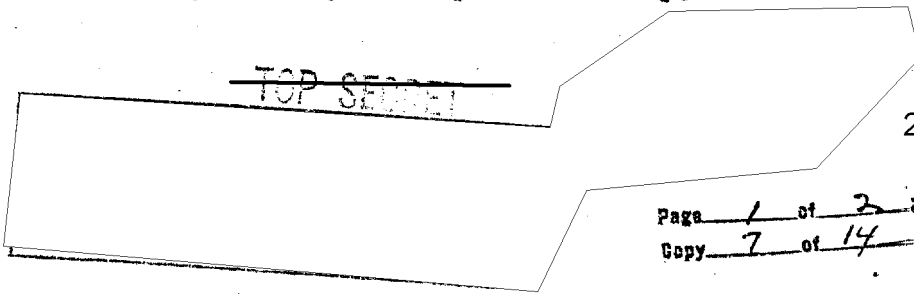
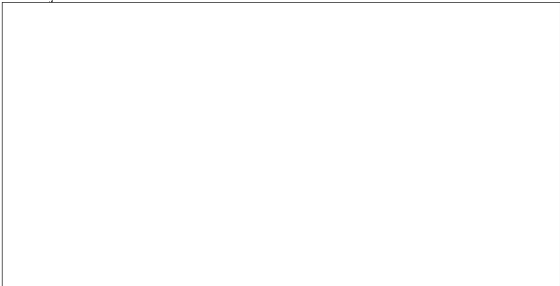
b. COMOR M-91, Minutes of the COMOR Meeting of 9 July 1962.

2. Subsequent to the successful ARGON Mission of 19 May 1962, the COMOR, pursuant to the earlier recommendation of USIB, conducted an evaluation of that mission. The findings, conclusions, and recommendations of COMOR relative thereto were forwarded to USIB for appropriate action in reference 1a, above. The conclusions of this document, in effect, were that the mission of the ARGON Program could be fulfilled if two successful shots can be accomplished under optimum weather conditions before the end of September. Hoping expeditiously to translate its conclusions into action, COMOR accordingly recommended one ARGON shot in July, one in August, and one in September (it was indicated in the paper that this third shot might not be needed if those in July and August were successful both in regard to technical performance and optimum weather conditions).

3. Reference 1b, reported that no USIB member had non-concurred in the document summarized above, but that CIA had pointed out that the ARGON package will not be ready for firing in July. Discussion at the COMOR meeting of 9 July indicated there was some question as to the interpretation of the recommendation in the light of this latter fact, now verified.

4. In consideration of both the intent of COMOR and the USIB in this matter, and a literal interpretation of the recommendations of reference 1a, the Army Member concludes approval now exists for one ARGON shot in August and one in September (assuming none in July).

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Because of the weather factor, as expressed in the referenced COMSEC conclusions, these shots should be scheduled as early in each month as possible.

5. The Army Member has been advised that there has been no change in the requirement for the third shot in the event one or more of the first two are unsuccessful, and that weather again makes it important that this shot, if required, be accomplished as early in the autumn as possible. It is recognized, however, that the existing approval requires that separate action be taken to obtain permission for this third shot.

6. Recommendations:

a. COMSEC approve the conclusions stated in paragraph 4 above.

b. Action be taken to schedule a third AEGON shot for late September or early October with the understanding that this mission might not be needed if the shots presently scheduled for August and September were completely successful, both in regard to technical performance and optimum weather conditions.

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