

CORONA/ARGON
UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE BOARD

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE

SUBJECT : ARGON Priority

REFERENCES: a. USIB-D-41.15/11, 2 July 1963
b. Memorandum for the Chairman, USIB from INRO, same subject, dated 3 July 1963

1. At its meeting on 10 July, the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) discussed with Mr. Kiefer your memorandum on the subject of 3 July (reference b.) in response to the recommendations of the USIB in its 2 July meeting (reference a.).

2. The USIB agreed that the photographic satellite schedule in the attachments to reference b. appear generally responsive to the intelligence requirements of the USIB provided that:

a. In the event of a failure of J-1001, NRO arranges for the conversion of J-1002 to a CORONA M and takes preparatory steps to minimize any time delay required for such conversion.

b. The question of scheduling 9059 as an ARGON is reviewed about the middle of August.

c. NRO meanwhile investigates the feasibility of moving the launching of 9059 up to early October in the event it is decided to schedule it as an ARGON.

3. Accordingly, the above action by the USIB is transmitted herewith for the guidance of NRO. It is requested that USIB be kept advised of any further developments regarding the launching schedule, with particular reference to the provisos in 2.a., b. and c. above.

USIB:JS Lay:mmk(10 Jul 63)

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JOHN A. McCONE
Chairman

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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

8 JUL 1963

reply

MEMORANDUM FOR THE CHAIRMAN, USIB

SUBJECT: ARGON Priority

- References:
- a. Memorandum for DNRO from Chairman, USIB, same subject, dated 27 June 63
 - b. Memorandum for Chairman, USIB from DNRO, same subject, dated 1 July 1963

The slowdown in the satellite reconnaissance launch schedule that was caused by our earlier technical difficulties, combined with the inherent lead times required to change from a CORONA J or a LANYARD to a CORONA M or an ARGON restrict the options available to us for meeting your requirements of an ARGON in July or August, a CORONA M in July, August and September plus a backup CORONA M.

Review of these options indicate that the requirements can best be satisfied by:

- a. Maintaining the present schedule in July.
- b. Changing one CORONA J (J-1002) to an ARGON in August.
- c. Retaining the option to launch one of the CORONA J's (J-1004) scheduled in September as either an M or a J until we see the results of the three CORONA missions scheduled for July.
- d. Maintaining the three CORONA J's and three LANYARDS scheduled during July, August and September.

This schedule does not include a CORONA M launch in August, but it does contain a CORONA J launch in late July, which if successful will permit coverage well into August.

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At this time, I do not consider the CORONA J, through first recovery, appreciably less reliable than the CORONA M. A few months ago before we had satisfactorily demonstrated the Thrust Assisted THOR, this was not the case. The CORONA J was risky and backup with CORONA M was justified. Now, although CORONA M must be considered slightly more reliable than CORONA J, this advantage probably does not apply to a system that has been converted to an M from a J.

Based on the above, I am revising the launch schedule, to include an ARGON in August as shown on the attached schedule.



Brockway McMillan
Director
National Reconnaissance Office

2 Atchs

1. July-Oct NRP Photo
Satellite Schedule
2. FY 64 NRP Photo
Satellite Schedule

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JULY-OCTOBER 1963 NRP PHOTOGRAPHIC SATELLITE SCHEDULE

	JULY	AUGUST	SEPTEMBER	OCTOBER
Mission Type Date	9057 CM 16	9058A ARGON 15	1003 CM or J3 17	1005 J5 15
Mission Type Date	1001 J1 29	8004 L4 27	1004 J4 27	9059 C*
Mission Type Date	8003 L3 29	1002 J2 30	8005 L5 30	1006 J6 24
Mission Type Date	4001 G 13		4002 G 17	

* Primary CORONA M standby, secondary ARGON backup

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FY 64 NRP PHOTOGRAPHIC SATELLITE SCHEDULE

	SPARES Pay- Sys- load tem	CY 63						CY 64					
		J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J
CORONA "M"		1			(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)	(1)			
"J"	4*	1	1	2**	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
"L"	*** 3 5	1	1	1									
ARGON	4****		1		1****								
GAMBIT		1		1	1	2		1	1	1	1	1	(1) (1)

- NOTES: () Standby launches at continuous (sequential) R-7 condition
 * One each complete system available Oct, Nov, Dec 1963 and Jan 1964
 ** One each of these J launches will be scheduled for primary launch as single recovery CM's secondary J. Decision to be made pending success of preceding J.
 *** Three L payloads are currently available. Five additional LANYARD payloads available for launch Jan-June 1964.
 **** ARGON payloads available for launch beginning June 1964
 ***** Primary CORONA M standby, secondary ARGON backup

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1	Chairman, USIB		
2			
3			
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ACTION	DIRECT REPLY	PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL	DISPATCH	RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT	FILE	RETURN	
CONCURRENCE	INFORMATION	SIGNATURE	1

Remarks:

The attached memorandum for the Director, NRO is submitted for signature in accordance with the USIB action today.

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.	DATE
James S. Lay, Jr., Exec. Secretary USIB	10 Jul
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