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**BYEMAN**  
CONTROL SYSTEM**(S) NATIONAL RECONNAISSANCE OFFICE**  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

THE NRO STAFF

November 9, 1972

Dr. McLucas has seen.

MEMORANDUM FOR DR. McLUCAS

SUBJECT: Additional Recovery Efforts for Possible 4335 Debris

Relating to the question of whether or not further effort should be expended in an attempt to recover additional debris, attached is a point paper which lists four options for consideration. These options are:

1. No search.
2. Search only military reservations using military personnel.
3. Search limited areas specified by Aerospace Corporation.
4. Search entire ground track area of the

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

There are variations on these options possible, such as conducting discreet inquiries as opposed to a physical search under the search options or "putting the word out" to appropriate people to be aware of the locating of any space debris. All options and variations of search run some risk of publicity and require a cover story of varying completeness.

The marginal risk potential from the practical and security standpoints suggests that the least risk option is to conduct no search or inquiry. This assumes that the six months which have elapsed between the impact and the present is a significant factor. A major consideration then is to assess the relative value of obtaining additional debris for technical and security reasons versus the likelihood of recovering the residue items

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without incurring counterproductive public attention. Additional items located and recovered by [redacted] quite likely would be analyzed before being returned to U.S. custody. Thus far, the event has received literally no public attention.

(b)(1)  
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Dr. Nutter, ASD(ISA) and his Deputy, Mr. Eagleburger are concerned about the potential for diplomatic repercussions and they desire to be involved in the decision on whether or not to expend additional effort. [redacted] on the surface, being extremely cooperative, at least toward the return of presently recovered debris. These items will be in Washington on Friday, November 10.

(b)(1)  
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For your information we have attached in chronological order the documents relating to the current retrieval and potential locations of additional debris.

In considering our next step we have three alternatives:

1. Decide not to search further.
2. Decide to instigate some sort of search by physical or inquiry methods.
- per McL* 3. Wait for further developments before making a decision.

We recommend the third alternative. We feel that it would be appropriate to wait at least until your return from the trip. By that time we should know conclusively the origin of the present debris; [redacted] attitudes toward further assistance; and the level of decision required to proceed further, if that seems to be a prudent course of action.

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

*Harold S. Coyle, Jr.*  
HAROLD S. COYLE, JR.  
Major, USAF

- 2 Attachments
1. Point Paper
  2. Chronology

*[Handwritten signature]*

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POINT PAPER

on

RECOVERY OF SPACE DEBRIS

ISSUE: If the recovered items are shown to be from Mission 4335, then should a search be conducted to locate additional pieces of debris?

OPTIONS: There are essentially four discreet choices ranging from no search to an extensive search. Options lying between the four are possible, such as discreet inquiries in public or local governmental areas without conducting a physical search.

A. No search.

Pros:

1. State Department and diplomatic channels do not become involved. [redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

2. Minimum risk of local attention to the recovery.

3. Minimum risk of third country interest.

4. Considers the time factor since impact and that additional debris may be unlocatable or otherwise lost to the U.S. because of the six month period including the summer season.

5. No resource cost is incurred in search.

6. Considers that additional debris turning up "naturally" may be returned to the U.S. on an ad-hoc basis.

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Cons:

1. Lose additional information potentially available which relates to survivability.

2. Risking that locatable debris could eventually fall into improper hands.

B. Search only military reservations on low-key basis with military troops.

Pros:

1. Only small risk of attention by locals and others.

2. Presently recovered pieces were located near

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

3. Use only military personnel, channels within the

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

4. Minimum cover story required.

Cons:

1. Only limited areas for search available.

2. Some costs will be incurred.

3.

[Redacted]

(b)(1)  
(b)(3)

C. Search limited areas specified by Aerospace Corp. using military personnel, or alternatively, using [Redacted] and military personnel.

[Redacted]

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Pros:

1. If estimates are accurate, would minimize areas for search.

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2. Increases probability of locating primary component debris, if available.

3. Increase possibility of gaining additional data on survivability of components.

4. May prevent pieces from falling into improper hands.

Cons:

1. Aerospace data may be inaccurate

2. Debris, if recovered already in populated areas, likely would have publicly turned up by this point in time.

3. High risk of attention being drawn to the retrieval process.

4. Excellent cover story required.

5. Some mobilization of searchers required,  costs may be incurred which require reimbursement. (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

D. Search the entire ground track area of the  using all appropriate resources available. (b)(1)  
(b)(3)

Pros:

1. Maximizes probability of locating additional debris, assuming Aerospace Corp. data are accurate.

2. Provides assurance that "no stone is unturned."

3. Provides maximum chance of obtaining additional technical data.

Cons:

1. Cumbersome research mechanism required.

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2. Excellent cover story required.
3. Maximizes risk of security problems.
4. High cost/high reimbursement requirement.

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CHRONOLOGY

TAB

- A            October 25 message from SAFSP      *Charge 5747*
- B            October 25 Memorandum for Dr. McLucas from  
                 Lt Col Hofmann
- C            October 28 Memorandum for the Record from Maj Coyle
- D            November 2 Memorandum for the Record from Maj Coyle
- E            November 2 Briefing from SAFSP on debris location

F           

(b)(1)  
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G           

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*All tabs filed separately in chronological order.*

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