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OPTICAL TECHNOLOGY DIVISION
OPTO-MECHANICAL DESIGN ENGINEERING

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Memorandum ME 80

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Release
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AR 7C-14, 1 AUG 2013

TO: Distribution

DATE: January 31, 1972

FROM: L.B. Molaskey

SUBJECT: Trip Report -- Recovery of RV #3

In response to HQ's message 8209 and a telecon from [redacted] I flew to Honolulu on Saturday, 15 January 1972. At that time the weather in the recovery area was improving and it was anticipated that Trieste would be launched in preparation for the next recovery attempt on the following day. The plan was to have [redacted] and me travel out to the White Sands aboard the "contingency tug" Quapaw. As it turned out the weather in the recovery area did not improve as expected and Trieste was not launched. [redacted] and I, therefore, remained in Honolulu while maintaining periodic contact with the I.O.U. (Integrated Operating Unit) through LCDR. Ron Doyle who is Operations Officer for Sub-Dev. Group I in Honolulu.

We remained in Honolulu waiting for the weather in the recovery area to clear hoping to join the operation once Trieste was launched.

While in Honolulu we visited Col. Quinn and Major Tweede of the 6594th Test Group at Hickam Field. They are the group responsible for aerial and/or at sea recovery of the RV's. I gave Maj. Tweede several pictures of the range ships "Longview" and "Sunnyvale" which I had taken on my first trip to the area.

The launch of SV2 occurred while we were in the area so we were invited into the Recovery Control Center (RCC) to listen to the launch over the network. When the first attempt was postponed, we were invited and again returned to the RCC to hear the actual launch.

Major Tweede also escorted us on a tour through one of the recovery aircraft.

After checking with Fleet Weather Central and the Air Force weather people and with their long range (10 day) predictions for continued heavy seas and storms in the recovery area it was decided to return home. Arrangements have been made to notify [redacted] when and if Trieste has been launched. At that point we will again go out to Honolulu where we will be flown out to the White Sands via helicopter.

The latest word is that the Navy plans to remain at the recovery site until about 7 February 72. If unable to dive by that time they will consider returning to San Diego prior to resuming the operation sometime later in the spring or early summer.

~~TOP SECRET~~

[redacted]

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L.B. Molaskey

1-31-72

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