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23 FEB 1978

Mr. Francis L. Williams
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
400 Maryland Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20546

Dear Frank,

(U) In response to your letter of 23 February 1978 concerning the threatened delay to real time transmission of SEASAT-A data collected at NASA's Madrid receiving station to Fleet Numerical Weather Central, Monterey, the following information is provided.

(U) The impact on our planned use of radar altimeter data in support of DMA's geodesy programs will be significant if SEASAT-A data collected at the Madrid site is not received at FNWC Monterey within 12 hours. This is so because of DMA's reliance on FNWC for initial altimeter data processing and FNWC's need to process satellite data on line in near-real time in order to accommodate this task while continuing to perform their regular operations.

(U) Approximately 25% of the worldwide data is expected to be received at the Madrid site. If FNWC were not able to preprocess this data for DMA, it could result in a 3 to 6 month delay in receipt of the data in a form useful for application by DMA activities. To accomplish the processing which would otherwise be done at FNWC, we would have to make an outlay of slightly over one million dollars. This additional amount would be necessary for the purchase of additional hardware (\$150K); software modification, increased manpower (\$175K), and increased computer time (\$700K).

(S) An additional impact which cannot be assigned a dollar amount involves the potential effect to the end user. Gravity data derived from SEASAT-A altimetry could be delayed 6 to 12 months. The flexibility of support to permit extension of TRIDENT operational areas would be diminished accordingly.

(U) As you know, DoD sees great value in the availability of worldwide SEASAT-A altimetry and has made a significant commitment to making it available in near-real time at Monterey. This commitment includes

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