

Julian

TWERLE STAFF MEETING

4 March 1974

Two more 2-coder flights were launched 1 March 1974 from Christchurch. The second TWERLE launch was made 28 February and all sensors functioned well.

Vin Lally reported that everything went well on the Carrier Balloon flight from Christchurch. However, there was failure of a gate on a command channel, so they are thinking of running the systems for 100 hours before a launch instead of 10 hours. The new coder worked well.

Claude Morel is still working on the pressure sensor calibration. Paul Julian reported that the 150 mb point is consistently "off" at each reading. (There is a 0.4 to 0.6 mb deviation.) Dennis Shea will review the problems with Claude this afternoon.

The antenna assembly group produced 10 antennas last week, which now gives a total of 241 completed antennas. These antennas still need to be balanced.

Paul Julian discussed the latest satellite schedule: There is a great possibility that Nimbus won't be launched in mid-August. If it is not launched then, it will lose its priority and will have to be re-scheduled--possibly for November or December of this year. The official decision from NASA will be made tomorrow. If the launch is postponed, there will have to be many changes made. One possibility is that the launches would be made from New Zealand between December 1974 and February 1975. Launching from the other sites would be delayed one full year, as winter launching is impossible from Ghana and Samoa. Paul will be going to Washington, D.C. tomorrow and will advise us of NASA's decision by Wednesday. The problem causing the possible delay seems to be the infra-red sounding experiment (HIRS).

TWERLE is now leasing storage space (440 square feet) in North Boulder.

The last MOL chassis has been received and is now at the shop.

Phyllis Carlson's group has now completed assembly of the 338 magnetic cut-downs and has given them to Steve Kovacs.

Eleven encoder boards that need to be coated have been found. They will be sent immediately to Ball Brothers.

Lack of a cold chamber is the only thing slowing assembly, but this problem should be alleviated by tomorrow at the latest.

Steve Kovacs reported that he has repaired 26 cutdowns.

Nadav Levanon (UWIS) is going to contact the Meeda Corporation concerning the low-sensitivity of the first radio altimeter that was launched from Christchurch.

A special tracking receiver is going to be ordered from R.F. Sources Company. This will enable tracking to begin as soon as the balloon has been launched.

Landis Parsons, Lionel Dicharry, Paul Julian, Vin Lally, and Jack Tefft will meet this morning to discuss the University of Wisconsin's latest proposal that they be paid approximately \$125,000 more to complete their end of the TWERLE project. This could definitely create a problem if the launch of the Nimbus-F is delayed past August 1974.

cc: J. Masterson
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