



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77058



REPLY TO
ATTN OF:

DA-76-L205

NOV 19 1976

TO: Ames Research Center
Attn: L/J. Sharp, Ph.D.

FROM: DA/Acting Director of Life Sciences

SUBJECT: SMD III Support

During the past week, we have been reviewing the overall SMD-III training schedule and its impact on our travel budget. We have come to the conclusion that we will be unable to support the ARC related training for our designated backup crewman (Mr. Jim Waligora). Since we feel it would be unfair to ask him to be an active backup without this training, we are withdrawing him from this position. As I understand it, you are interested in full backup training for two ARC payload specialists. Therefore, I would like to offer both backup positions for your allocation.

We have discussed the general philosophy of backup payload specialists not only for SMD-III but also during actual missions. I am not presently convinced that this is a realistic mode of operation. In fact, at this point in time I would recommend slipping the SMD-III test (rather than using backups) should we have any problems with the prime crew. The requirement for prime and backup crews to train as a unit puts a severe strain on the available resources, particularly when only a single mission specialist and one set of hardware is available. This should probably be a topic for us to discuss with Dave the next time we are together.

If you have changed your mind about desiring both backup crew positions, please give me a call.

Lawrence F. Dietlein, M.D.
Acting Director of Life Sciences

cc:

DE/Wm. Bush

DB/J. Rummel, Ph.D.

CA/Wm. Thornton, M.D. ✓

DE/Chief

DB4/J. Waligora

ARC/LF/Wm. Berry

DB/Chief