

MEMORANDUM

Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center



REFER TO: CB	DATE	INITIATOR CB/WETHornton:lmc:7/18/77:2421	ENCL
TO: CH3/G. H. Cress		cc CB/J. P. Kerwin	
FROM: CB/W. E. Thornton		SIGNATURE William E. Thornton	
SUBJ: SMD III Report			

The majority of the report was good, although I feel a number of items were either not addressed or superficially addressed. In many of these areas-- scientific management of payload, impact of preflight activity on crew, etc., this may have been appropriate for the authors.

Conversely, a number of other items were rather vigorously addressed. For example, the level of training was considered to be too high. In this case the reasoning for considering the training level too high was given and for those skilled in scientific experimentation, the fallacies are obvious. Other errors are not obvious. By and large the training section not only has a number of gross errors but as written this section badly misrepresents what happened.

Several errors deserve the disappointment they generate in the crew. A number of equipment problems that we had flagged and begged to be changed; e.g., the BPMS was wrong and had been wrong continuously and the world had been notified many times prior to the test and nothing was done. The same thing was true of the cardiac output portion of OTR and here unsuccessful attempts were made to repair it yet it too was charged to crew error. In the same way, simulation support claimed we accidentally killed an animal which in fact was killed by the vets in loading. Small points, but we worked hard to avoid such errors and it does not seem too much to ask for a correction here.

Finally, you make or imply the serious charge that the crew conducted the test at variance with the wishes of managers and PI's (?). Unfortunately, you give no specifics. As we have discussed several times, I did and do not know of such deviations and you have not given me such examples. On the contrary, we made every attempt to satisfy the wishes of the whole. There were individuals and incidents that would have violated rules or regulations, which we did not accept but these were discussed and mutual agreements were reached. Several actions were taken that were very much contrary to our wishes and contrary to the success of SMD III; e.g., not troubleshooting Experiment 66 per the PI are simply not consistent with these statements.

Unsupported charges are the easiest things in the world to make and the most difficult to disprove and charges of this nature should be supported.