

April 2, 1965

To : Dr. Mueller
From : Mr. Christensen
Subj: GT-3 Crew

The following comments supplement our phone conversation of 4/1/65:

1. Sandwich

The sandwich was carried on board and is fairly clear in the Life article. Its presence was known to Deke Slayton prior to flight. It was not considered a hazard to the crew. However, Dr. Berry, who did not know about the sandwich objected to it because of the crumbs and the fact that it was two days old.

2. Pencils

Four Pentel pencils were taken along on the flight. These are Japanese pencils with a nylon point. These were flight qualified. The problem, of course, is the 49¢ total cost. Deke Slayton, to whom I talked ~~to~~, was instructed to take every precaution in preventing this item from becoming public.

3. The American Flag

This item was carried in one of the stowage boxes. It was flight qualified and had MSC Management approval.

4. Brassiere

This was the item Julian Scheer referred to when we were in the Blockhouse for SA-9. It did occur and subsequent to my learning about it, I asked Deke Slayton to call it to the Flight Crew's attention and to caution them about such antics in the future.

5. Diamond Ring

This was a personal item carried by Gus. Certainly it can not be considered hazardous. He apparently carried two other little items. Things of this nature could, with proper approvals, be entirely acceptable.

6. Florentine Crosses

Two crosses of Saint Gemini were sent from someone in Italy with the recommendation they be aboard the first Gemini flight. One was carried by each crew member with proper approval.

Deke Slayton was aware of all the above items. He reported that George Low has told him that anything he approves will be all right. Apparently, there was a considerable number of souvenirs carried on Mercury flights and all levels of management are implicated in this to some degree. I, for one, knew about the presence of the flag on board and thought it to be an excellent idea. I recommend that no disciplinary action be taken which focuses on the crew. I further recommend that we establish a clear understanding that all items to be carried on manned space flights in the future will have flight qualifications, medical and Mission Director approval, and that there be an agreement before hand on what items can be made public.

R. L. Richard
for E. E. Christensen

Be sure everyone understands this.