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SANTA BARBARA • SANTA CRUZ

SPACE SCIENCES LABORATORY

BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA 94720

September 3, 1969

Mr. William F. Sloan
Dicronite Lubricants of
Northern California
1291 Terra Bella Avenue
Mt. View, California 94040

Dear Mr. Sloan:

I would like to extend my appreciation for the part that Dicronite played in the highly successful Mariner 6 and Mariner 7 missions. As you know, the gear trains for the infrared spectrometers were lubricated with Dicronite because of the extreme environments to be experienced during the long voyage to Mars. It is my pleasure to inform you that the spectrometers functioned immediately upon command, after having been idle in space for five (5) months at a temperature of -35 degrees centigrade and an atmosphere of 10^{-14} torr. The spectrometers have operated flawlessly since the initial activation and we expect them to operate on command for at least two years, the anticipated lifetime of the spacecraft.

Very truly yours,

Dr. Kenneth C. Herr
Project Director
Mariner Mars, 1969
Infrared Spectrometer

KCH:cb