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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL
Washington 25, D.C.

Meeting of 27 April 1959



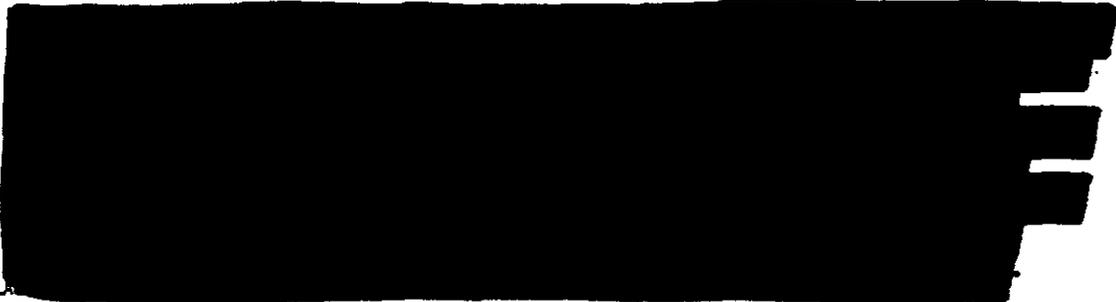
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The fifth meeting of the National Aeronautics and Space Council was convened at the White House at 2:32 p.m.

Council Members or Alternates Present: The President; The Deputy Secretary of Defense, Mr. Donald A. Quarles; The Deputy Under Secretary of State, Mr. Robert Murphy; The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Dr. T. Keith Glennan; The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission, Mr. John A. McCone; The Director, National Science Foundation, Dr. Alan T. Waterman; Dr. Detlev W. Bronk; Mr. William A. M. Surden.

Others: The Special Assistant for National Security Affairs, Mr. Gordon Gray; The Special Assistant for Science and Technology, Dr. J.R. Killian, Jr.; The Director, Bureau of the Budget, Mr. Maurice H. Stans; The Special Assistant for Security Operations Coordination, Mr. Karl G. Harr, Jr.; The Deputy Administrator, NASA, Dr. Hugh L. Dryden; The Director, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Mr. Roy W. Johnson; The Special Assistant to the Secretary of State for Disarmament and Atomic Energy, Mr. Philip J. Farley; The Chairman, NASA-DOD Civilian-Military Liaison Committee, Mr. W. M. Holaday; Brigadier General Andrew J. Goodpaster, Staff Secretary to the President; Mr. Edgar M. Cortright, NASA (Present for Item 1); Dr. Homer E. Newell, NASA (Present for Item 5); The Acting Secretary, National Aeronautics and Space Council, Mr. Franklyn W. Phillips.

1.



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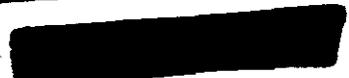
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[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

2.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

3.

The Deputy Under Secretary of State reviewed the steps that have led to the present status of the United Nations Ad Hoc Committee on Peaceful Use of Outer Space. He explained that the organization meeting of the Committee will be held on May 6, 1959, and that in preparation for it certain draft position papers and working papers had been prepared by the Department of State in cooperation with the other appropriate Departments and Agencies. He said these had been circulated to the Council in order to elicit comment and guidance.

The opinion was expressed that one of the most critical aspects of this United Nations activity relates to the acceptance of the use of reconnaissance satellites as a legitimate outer space activity. It was agreed that the discussions should be channeled so as not to limit the use by the U. S. of reconnaissance satellites, and it was suggested that the discussion might be directed at establishing a "freedom of outer space" concept.

As an example of the difficulty to be encountered in such discussions relating to specific types of space vehicles, the President pointed out that application of an advanced meteorological satellite system would provide a type of reconnaissance data without ever calling it that.



The importance of retaining United States initiative in this matter was emphasized in order that an acceptable result would be obtained.

4. The Deputy Secretary of Defense presented three recommendations pertaining to the National Priority list as recorded under National Security Council Action No. 1846. They were:

- (1) Delete IGY scientific satellite (VANGUARD-JUPITER C) programs from the National Priority List
- (2) Amend the item on "Satellite programs (other than VANGUARD and JUPITER C) determined by the Secretary of Defense to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import" to read "Space programs determined by the President on advice of the National Aeronautics and Space Council to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import."
- (3) In conjunction with recommendation (2) above, recommend that the following specific projects be included under the category of space programs:

SENTRY (Satellite borne visual and ferret reconnaissance system)

DISCOVERER (Satellite guidance and recovery)

[REDACTED]

He noted these recommendations are concurred in by both the Department of Defense and NASA.

The President, in accepting these recommendations, stated that any space program, whether it be military or civilian, should come before this Council for recommendation with final determination by the President. It was agreed that a notation of any action so taken would be provided the National Security Council.



5.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

6.

The Deputy Secretary of Defense suggested that at some later meeting there be a discussion of the significance of Council advice and Presidential acceptance or approval of programs. He explained he would like clarification of the degree of program detail effected by this acceptance or approval, and the kind of program changes that would have to be returned to the Council for consideration.

He also expressed the Department of Defense view that space is a place in which old missions may be more effectively carried out with new tools. Therefore he asked for freedom to reprogram Defense funds based on their internal competition of one system against another.

7.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:44 p.m.

Franklyn W. Phillips
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Acting Secretary