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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

May 2, 1956

TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR WORKING GROUP
ON CERTAIN ASPECTS OF NSC 5520

1. By agreement of the Operations Coordinating Board at its meeting of January 18, 1956, there is established an OCB Working Group on Certain Aspects of NSC 5520.
2. The Department of Defense was assigned the responsibility in consultation with the Department of State and the Central Intelligence Agency for coordinating the scientific, technical and logistical aspects of the earth satellite program authorized by NSC 5520. The Working Group will concern itself with other aspects of the earth satellite program, such as public information, legal, etc., particularly (a) public announcements of the satellite, its content and its orbit; (b) the impact of Soviet earth satellite programs, whether in connection with the International Geophysical Year (IGY) or separately conducted; (c) international inspection of the satellite before launching; (d) international witnessing of the launching; and (e) arrangements for international tracking of the orbiting vehicle.
3. The OCB Working Group will assure itself that appropriate coordination is undertaken with respect to all phases of the earth satellite program which have major implications of interest and concern to the Operations Coordinating Board.
4. The National Science Foundation is the official U. S. point of contact with the National Academy of Sciences under which the program of private U. S. and foreign scientists is being coordinated.
5. The OCB Working Group includes representatives as listed below and is chaired by the representative of the Department of Defense; additional agencies will be designated as appropriate by the OCB Executive Officer or by the Board:
 - a. Department of Defense
 - b. Department of State
 - c. Central Intelligence Agency
 - d. U. S. Information Agency
 - e. National Science Foundation
 - f. OCB Staff
 - g. Disarmament Staff *
 - h. National Academy of Sciences (by invitation of the NSF) *

*Added by Executive Officer.

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DRAFT OCB MINUTE



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In connection with the launching of the first SAMOS satellite (scheduled for October 4), the Board agreed:

1. Information on the first launching of a SAMOS satellite should emphasize that the launching is part of a research and development program intended to develop a global observation satellite capability. A major effort should be made to keep press treatment in as low key as possible.
2. Information about the satellite should be held to a minimum, with the explanation that such information is classified. No information other than the fact of launching should be released until it is known how the satellite has performed.
3. The Department of Defense should announce the launching of the first satellite. State and Defense should agree in advance on a list of questions and answers consonant with a decision to release a minimum amount of information about the program at this time.
4. Public information guidelines for the first satellite would not determine future handling of SAMOS launchings. After the first launching, a thorough analysis would be made of world-wide reaction, public and governmental. As soon as possible thereafter, the State and Defense Departments would prepare a report containing alternative policy recommendations as to whether the SAMOS satellite should be treated in a "closed

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fashion," i. e., as a straight intelligence operation, or in a more "open manner" aimed at facilitating world-wide acceptance of the continued use of observation satellites.

5. Until the report mentioned above is completed and the policy considerations involved are decided, no information campaign should be launched in the United Nations, and no official statement should be made with reference to the future use of reconnaissance satellites or the disposition of the information obtained from such satellites.



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