

Policy: Peaceful Uses  
Policy: 18 Points  
STIC: Gemini  
STIC: MOL ✓

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17 September 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: State Department Guidance to U.S. Delegation

The attached draft cable was sent to me by Colonel Marshall Sanders. Note the bracketed item on the second page. Colonel Sanders insisted State delete this element from the message.

Atch

  
PAUL E. WORTHMAN  
Colonel, USAF

NOTE: A copy of this was sent  
to Colonel Norman, SAFSL  
20 Sep 65

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MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Col Worthman *Fix up  
copy for  
Gen Evans*

Paul, would you  
please call me on this  
as soon as you have  
read it. I want to  
clear it today, if possible.  
I have atleast one problem  
with it in its present form.  
I would like you to check it  
with Gen Evans office also  
marshall

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USUN NEW YORK

SUBJECT: Outer Space Meetings -- MOL or Gemini Issues

Following are instructions to deal with possibility Soviets will raise issue of MOL or Gemini:

1. MOL. Soviets may charge MOL is program to develop possible use of space orbital labs as platforms for dropping bombs, that program aimed at testing ~~and~~ orbital nuclear weapons carriers. TASS concluded that CA Res 1884(XVIII) which banned orbiting nuclear or any other kinds weapons of mass destruction in outer space in effect covered both carriers and warheads proper.

DEL should point out MOL will not repeat not carry any weaponry whatsoever, that is space laboratory only which is intended conduct defense research primarily but will doubtless produce important benefits in terms scientific knowledge and advancement space exploration generally. There no relationship MOL and weapons in space. Fact program being run by Dept Defense irrelevant to charges: many of both SOV and US astronauts are military

L:L/UKA:NRGaither:mab:9-18-65

IO - Joseph J. Sisco

L - Mr. Necker  
SOV - Mr. MacCracken  
G/PM - Mr. George  
NASA/IA - Mr. Frutkin

INR - Mr. Halsted  
L/RUR - Mr. Hein  
SCI - Mr. Meshitt  
UNP -

DOD/ISA - Col. Sanders  
ACDA - Mr. Heidle

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military personnel and space activities both countries have had military as well as nonmilitary components. Question is not whether program is military or nonmilitary, question is whether program is aggressive or nonaggressive.

Size of MOL immaterial. Natural that as scientific progress in space proceeds, size space lab also increases. Could not require two men work one month in Gemini size craft. In terms size, MOL anticipated to be 40 ft long by 10 feet diameter. (MOL does not possess capability to be weapon carrier.) (MOL will not incorporate weapon carrying or delivery capability.) Design such that Gemini capsule will effect re-entry astronauts. MOL would burn up on re-entry. Furthermore, ~~we~~ <sup>there is no</sup> need develop orbital bombardment capability, since would offer no military advantage over operational ICBM's.

Re Res 1984, President Johnson when announcing MOL reaffirmed US intention not RPT not place weapons mass destruction in orbit.

2. Gemini. Should SOVs rap Gemini program as having military or non-peaceful aims, DEL should quickly brush aside as preposterous. Point to 1) world-wide publicity accompanying progress and achievements of program, 2) invitation of President Johnson to SOVs have rep next launch, and 3) <sup>US</sup> glad open all space launchings for inspection on reciprocal basis.]

Should SOVs reopen spying from satellite issue, DEL may reiterate US position that observation from space is consistent with international law, just as is observation from the high seas. END

CP-3

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