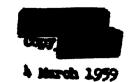
TOP SECRET



MERCANDIN FOR: Deputy Marector (Plans)

THOUGH

: Chief, Abelnistrative Branch MD-DD/P

BRIET

: Establishment of a Senate Subscussittee to Investigate Activities and the Pessible Rifect upon Project CONCEA.

1. The Washington Post carried a story today (equy attached) stating that Senator Stuart Symington had been named to head a new Senate subcountitee to investigate "wasteful rivalry and deplication" in space programs.

- 2. The fact that Sunctor Symington has been a strong critic of the Administration defence policies leads no to suspect that his inquiries might well include the present DECOVERS series. As you know, the press reaction to the recent RECOVERS learnting high-lighted the benefits to the "Non in Space Program" and alluded to future technical advancements in weapons system development. Also, our intention to clock future activities in an air of limited secrecy with only certain facts being given to the press and general public could make us a turget of Mr. Symington's committee. In the past, he has make several consents which reflect his displaneaux over the Administration tendency to hide behing security.
- 3. As you may have gathered by mow, I am leading up to the engagestion that Mr. Symington be briefed on CONCEA and our difficulties in dealing with the press to conceal the mission involved. In suggesting such action, however, I have several reasons in mind, all of which would, I feel, have benefit to our present 1979 program and mry 1960 activities we may be charged with.
- 4. You will recall the problems we inherited when we assumed the responsibility of the SEFEKY program. Many of the class given the press that a recommissance capability was in being case from Congressional hearings where high government officials were questioned on the recommissance effort. A briefing of Senator Symington would elect him to the present program and offer us an apportunity to each his assistance in furthering the COROMA cover. His previous position

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TOP SECRET

as Secretary of the Air Force under the Trumon Abstraction, I as sure left him with an appreciation of the problems we are faced with. To bring him into our confidence is a risk not without strong political overtones, but one I feel we must take or else suffer the results of probing questions asked of Agency heats who will be required to homestly respond.

- 5. Perhaps my approach to this situation is naive, however, I visualize a possible situation that would enable us to have certain questions saked of Agency heads such as Mr. Boy Johnson or Mr. Serbert York which would permit them to respond along the lines of our cover story. Such questions and answers would of course have to be cleared between Senetor Symington and the particular Agency head scheduled to appear before the subcounttee. Such congruentonal hearings will obviously be of interest to the press and may statements made at such hearings will be taken as facts which the press will quote. He will have thus established a firm foundation to our present cover story and may future cover for recommissance activities. Such comments would remove any suspicion presently held by certain technical reporters.
- 6. It is totally possible that the subconstitute will not interest itself in specific programs but rather seak only line of commend information in an affort to astablish a wore realistic division of responsibility within the missile community. Westever the purpose of their inquiries, I believe we are faced with the serious problem of being inedvertently exposed. My main concern is the possibility that during the ecurse of questioning any Agency or Department beads affiliated with the CCROWA progress, questions are got to be asked which require answers that would destroy all of our cover efforts leaving us with nothing to "hence a 1960 hat on." A second exposure of the WS-117L progress would mean diseater, for there are only certain activities that one be conducted with satellites. Of considerable concern, for example, is any questioning of Mr. Roy Johnson (ARPA) who has been in strong opposition to the use of the Thor Boost for photographic reconsciesence purposes. He is reportedly leaving government service and may feel free to air his views on this matter before a congressional subcountities, if questioned on the technical qualities of one gratum as opposed to another.
- 7. An approach to Mr. Symington may not be the ensure. Perhaps we should seek council with Senator Lyndon Johnsonia an offcet to determine whether specific programs are going to be examined or ean be avoided. I am not familiar with the means available to the Agency

Page 2 of 3

TOP SECRET



TOP SECRET

for approaching such individuals, however, I do know that Commit Schriever is a very close personal friend of Senator Johnson and this relationship may be the means of imprising into the scope of the schoomsittee's concern.

6. I realize the difficulties and possible minumerstanding of any attempt to execute emiral over the adotume of advocamittee bearings. However, I believe my suggestions to be in the national interest and I make then for the sale purpose of protecting a capability that has great potential to the salety of the nation. I suggest your early consideration of an approach to this problem.

SIGNED

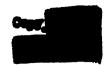
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Attachment: (1) Newspaper Clipping

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TOP SECRET

7mm 3 of 3



Symington To Investigate Space 'Waste'

By John A. Goldsmith United Free International

Sen. Stuart Symington, a strong critic of Administration defense policies, was named posterday to head a new Senate subcommittee to investigate "wasteful rivalry and duplication" in space programs.

Chairman Lyndon B. Johnson of the Senate Space Committee announced establishment of the new subcommittee and the selection of the Missouri Democrat to head it. Symington is a possible 1900 Democratic presidential con-

cratic leader, said the new seven-man subcommittee will start hearings as soon as possible and report, with recommendations, at an early date. Noting that "at least" 14

agencies or commissions have some authority or responsibility in the space effort, Johnson said rivalry is "inevitable" and sometimes can become a valuable spur to achievement.

But he said "wateful rivalry and duplication must be guarded against."

He said the Symington group will provide "continued surveiliance" over organizational aspects of the space program with an aim of developing facts for the people," uncovering "costly duplications that can be avoided," and "to progide the basis for sound legislation."

In addition to Symington, members of the new subcommittee are Sens. Thomas J. Dodd (D-Conn.), Howard W. Cannon (D-Nev.), Stephan M. Young (D-Ohio), Styles Bridges (R-N. H.). Margaret Chase Smith (R-Maine) and Clifford

P. Case (R-N. J.)



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