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15 JAN 1

MEMORANDUM FOR: Honorable U. Alexis Johnson
Deputy Under Secretary for Political Affairs
Department of State

SUBJECT: Foreign Press Attention to United States
Satellite Reconnaissance Capability

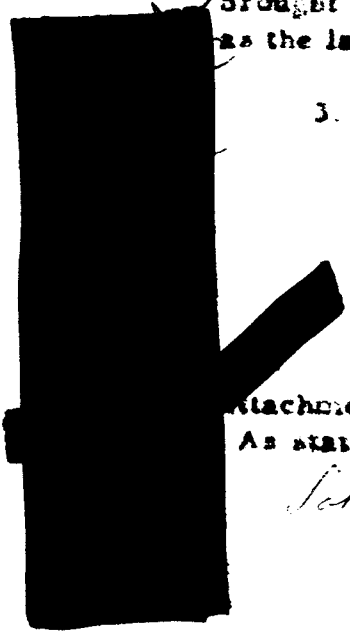
1. We have researched our files in an effort to accumulate a representative sampling of previous coverage in the foreign press given to the United States Satellite Reconnaissance capability. The various articles which have come to our attention have been arranged chronologically in an attachment to this memorandum.

2. I feel it is essential to point out that the examples attached should not be considered the result of a thorough or comprehensive foreign press monitoring effort. Such has not existed. Furthermore, we must assume that certain of the United States press coverage in this regard, under wire service auspices, has also appeared in foreign publications. Very likely, most of the latter material has not been brought to our attention. An example of such releases is attached as the last item in the chronology.

3. I trust the attached will serve the purpose.

AD *—*


ALBERT D. WHEELON
Deputy Director



Attachment:

As stated 

Satellite Product

Handle via 
Control System

[REDACTED]

Signature Recommended:

(Signed)

[REDACTED]

AD/OSA

[REDACTED]

Distribution:

[REDACTED]

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E A S T G E R M A N Y

Mar 3, 1959

DISCOVERER I POINTS UP U. S. WAR AIMS

Berlin, East German Home Service, Mar. 2, 1959, 2115 GMT-L

(Guenther Seidel military-political talk)

(Text) No day passes without some news from the West to make sensible people angry. Once again it is a matter of rockets and earth satellites. While only a few weeks ago, U. S. President Eisenhower emphasized that all U. S. experiments with earth satellites were for peaceful purposes and intended to open new fields of knowledge in the International Geophysical Year, it is now learned from the Pentagon that the first military satellite has been launched.

In view of the well-known lack of reliability of U. S. rockets, the fact that Discoverer I is connected with the U. S. reconnaissance service does not indicate any superiority of this service. That this is not a prejudiced view, is shown by the launching of this satellite by means of a U. S. Air Force Thor rocket from the Vandenberg base in California.

At 2249 Central European Time it was launched. A control station 150 kilometers away received radio signals. But 10 minutes later, barely audible radio signals were received only on a battleship. Since then the satellite has been silent. In spite of its silence, however, it raises problems. Its mechanism and the mechanisms of future satellites clearly serve military purposes, whether by radio signals or television cameras. The Americans fired it without even talking to other states over whose territories the Discoverer is to perform espionage services. The elipse of its course passes over the Soviet Union. Built-in film cameras and infrared visual detectors (Infrarotsichtgeraete), directed toward the earth from the satellite, automatically measure the coordinates of industrial areas, towns, power stations and canals. These observations are used later to make entries on the map and for determining rocket targets.

I cannot imagine what stroke of genius illuminated the brains of the U. S. military people when they gave the order to fire

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EAST GERMANY
Mar. 3, 1959

this satellite. They must realize one thing; namely, that in this instance, as in rocket technology generally and in interplanetary research, they will come out second-best. This satellite, the second heaviest U. S. rocket to date, which was carried by a 26-meter two stage rocket weighing 45 tons, contained a payload of 18 kilograms.

The observation stations have lost all trace of the Discoverer, as with so many previous satellites and rockets launched from U. S. testing grounds. Sputnik III still circles our globe and carried 20 times as heavy a payload.

The Soviet Union has emphasized at all conferences and by many proposals that it aims at lessening the tension between the two social systems. This is also reflected by the Soviet rocket research program and by the program for the investigation of the planetary, interplanetary, and cosmic spaces.

(Word indistinct) U. S. politicians and military men are carrying the cold war into space. It would be better for Mr. Eisenhower and his generals not to engage in military espionage from planetary space but to listen to the views of the people and to adjust their policies accordingly.

The Soviet Union has undoubtedly for some time been in a position to put satellites into orbit which are capable of measuring the U. S. continent by the yard. To do so however is not in the interests of its policy. Moreover, since the Second World War, the Soviet Union has the experience, which is reflected in the organizational and geographical structure of Soviet economy and industry, of using all opportunities to adjust its defense industries to the specific features of modern aerial warfare. The objects of observation of most interest to the Discoverer would thus remain hidden.

The position is different with regard to the U. S. war industries which are concentrated to an extraordinary degree in various regions and are absolutely open to view. The U. S. generals are thus, as in so many other fields, involving themselves in a race in which they should know from the start that they will be left far behind...

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5 Mar 62

London, England

U. S. SPACE SPY "REPORTS"

Soviet Secrets Snapped 300 Miles Up

"American missile scientists yesterday began studying "Space Spy" photographs of Soviet rocket bases. The Space Spy is a Discoverer satellite with high-precision cameras aboard. It spent four days last week whirling over Russia's main military installations.

"And its cameras are so powerful that the photographs - provided there is no cloud - can show parked aircraft and vehicles from 300 miles up.

"One thing United States scientists want to check is the possibility of another Soviet space launching. Preparations for such a "shot" will show up on the photographs.

"The United States Air Force in a brief statement issued in Washington, yesterday revealed that a transport plane snatched a package of instruments - ejected from the satellite - in mid-air over the Pacific.

"The satellite was launched last Tuesday from the base at Vandenberg, California - on an orbit that took it repeatedly over Soviet territory.

"Then a radio signal, beamed to the Discoverer as it passed over Alaska, fired braking rockets in the satellite.

"The plane, waiting over the Pacific scooped up the satellites instrument capsule. It was caught in a giant "butterfly" net trailing behind the aircraft. For the Space Spy-mission completed.

"The terse Air Force announcement shows that America is taking an increasingly tough line with Russia.

"For it follows President Kennedy's week-end warning that America intends to resume nuclear tests in the atmosphere unless the Russians agree to a test-ban treaty.

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DAILY MIRROR
5 Mar 62

"America has been flying spy satellites over Russia since a U-2 spy plane piloted by Francis Gary Powers, came down over Soviet territory in 1960.

"Powers was released by the Russians last month after serving eighteen months of a ten-year jail term for spying."

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G U A R D I A N
Manchester, England
19 June 63

"Five 'Secret' USAF Satellites. By a Science Correspondent"

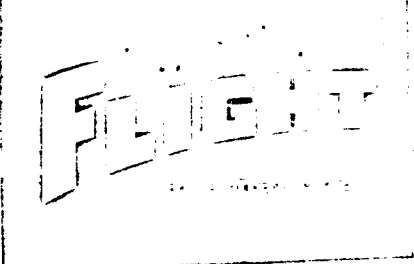
"Publicity attending the progress of Vostoks 5 and 6 has effectively obscured the launching of five "secret" satellites by the USAF within the past week

"Four of these satellites were placed in orbit in the two-day interval between Colonel Bykovsky's launching on Friday and that of Valentina Tereshkova on Sunday, and three of the four were placed in orbit by one rocket.

"The USAF does not now identify the satellites which it places in orbit. In the absence of official identification, it can be deduced that two of the recent Air Force space craft could have been for reconnaissance, with a particular interest in the Baikonur site from which the Russian cosmonauts are launched.

"The first of the five Air Force satellites was launched by a Thor Agena rocket from Vandenberg Air Force Base in California on June 13, the day before Bykovsky's launch, when rumours in Moscow were suggesting an imminent space flight."

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Brinkmanship in Space

LAST week, after the transformation scene in the U-2 affair had produced a national hero from an unpromising situation, applause deadened a noise off-stage—the launching, by the US Air Force, of a fourth secret satellite. The lesson of the U-2, it seems, has not been learned.

In 1956 *Flight* was first to spotlight U-2 activities. We were first again, last December, in calling attention to apparent attempted deception by the omission of a USAF satellite launching from internationally agreed records kept since the IGY and Sputnik 1. The facts follow.

On November 22, 1961, the USAF announced that a satellite had been “successfully launched” by Atlas Agena rocket from Point Arguello, California. On December 22, 1961, a similar announcement stated that another such satellite had been launched. No further details were supplied. Neither satellite was given an international designation, and both were omitted from an allegedly full list of space launchings in a report by President Kennedy. At the same time, in the United Nations, Mr Adlai Stevenson was introducing a resolution (adopted on December 11) which, among other things, called on States launching spacecraft “to furnish information promptly for purposes of registration of launchings.” Mr Stevenson commented: “The first principle is that international law, including the UN charter, applies to outer space . . . we should state explicitly that the rules of good international conduct follow [man] wherever he goes . . .” The discrepancy was clear.

On February 21 this year, a USAF Thor Agena was launched from Vandenberg Air Force Base carrying “secret equipment.” This was correctly designated as 1962 Delta, but no further information was given. Discoverer 38, launched on February 27, was also given its 1962 Epsilon designation but nothing further was disclosed. The most recent launching of a USAF “secret satellite” was from Point Arguello on March 7.

It appears that the launchings of November 22 and December 22, 1961, and March 7, 1962, were of Samos reconnaissance or Midas early-warning satellites, and that those of February 21 and February 27 were Discoverers carrying Samos and/or Midas equipment. Together with Midas 4 (October 21, 1961), this makes six major launches on which basic orbital information has been withheld from world scientists.

Our Objections

Let us list our objections. US Air Force secrecy on basic orbital data is not in line with the US-sponsored United Nations resolution. It prevents world scientists from studying the orbits and so learning new facts about the structure of the high atmosphere. It is of doubtful military value, for the satellites concerned can undoubtedly be observed from the Soviet Union, as at least one has been observed from this country. And this secrecy represents a double standard, which is not tenable.

For world science and world politics, then, the American attitude is dangerous. Scientifically, there is a parallel in the ill-advised West Ford project to place a belt of dipoles in orbit—a second attempt at which is now to be made. Politically, the parallel with the U-2 is too close for comfort. In 1956 *Flight* readers observed U-2 operations. Now a reader has reported the observation of a secret USAF satellite. The 1960 Summit meeting preparations were blasted by the ill timing of the U-2 affair. Now, a satellite carrying observation equipment is launched on the day following Mr Khrushchev’s suggestion of co-operation in space. This is not what Mr Stevenson calls “good international conduct.” This is brinkmanship in space.

TEXT FROM LEAD EDITORIAL
FLIGHT MAGAZINE
22 March 1962

Brinkmanship and Gamesmanship

"Among many newspapers which commented on our 'Brinkmanship in Space' leading article last week was the New York Daily News. An editorial headed 'Just Keep 'em Secret' took an issue with us in picturesque terms, thus: 'They (the satellites) are Midas or Samos jobs, for early missile-launch warnings and TV pictures of Soviet Russian Terrain respectively. Our refusal to state what they are up to is denounced as not scientific cricket. Cricket Schmicket. Our first duty is to defend ourselves against an enemy that has sworn to bury us. If these secret satellites are indeed working on that assignment we wish them long and productive careers in orbit - and we hope the Pentagon will keep the secrecy wraps on them as long as it pleases, regardless of squawks from any quarter.'"

"Our own further comment devolves not upon newsprint but on a document prepared for the United Nations, received at the US Embassy in London on March 16, and examined by us on that day. The title is 'Registration Data for US Space Launches as of February 15, 1962.' Yet the USAF launches of November 22 and December 22, 1961 are still omitted. For the first time orbital data are included for Midas 4, launched on October 21, 1961. It is our understanding that these American registrations are to be 'updated' every fourteen days. We shall scrutinize future editions with interest, and hope that we shall find everything present and correct."

"Meanwhile, a fraternal word with the editor of the New York Daily News may be in order. We wish to remind him that in Britain we play our cricket without the schmicket. Even so, we find that it is a game in which one can very easily be caught out. It is better played with a leather-covered ball on the village green than with satellites in space."

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FLIGHT MAGAZINE

16 August 1962

(This editorial, coupled with Bernard Lovell's 15 August remarks on Sovs capability to shoot down US Recce Satellites, formed basis for front page stories in Telegraph and Guardian. Mirror carried story on back page but in much more subdued tone than blast some months ago.)

"Keeping the record straight. By a directive dated March 23 the US Defense Department vigorously suppressed information on certain space launches and banned all mention of Military Satellite names such as Discoverer, Midas, Samos, Saint and Vela Hotel. Moreover, the Department ruled that the directive stating that these names were 'classified' would itself be classified. The Soviet Union, too, has been secretive in recent months concerning its satellites, and the Seven Cosmos Spacecraft described as 'scientific' have not been shown in pictures, nor has their weight been disclosed.

"One result of this secrecy became apparent when Flight International began its research for the "Spacecraft Scoreboard" feature in this issue. As intended, it was extremely difficult to pin down such basic details of USAD launches as date, booster and place. A Goddard Space Flight Center Satellite Situation Report (normally the acme of accuracy, if not of detail) listed one satellite as having been launched on April 29 and as having re-entered on April 28. This we doubted. Two USAF satellites were launched, by Blue Scout and Atlas Agena, on April 26. Only one achieved orbit, but the Air Force did not say which. No US Aerospace publication has correctly reported all the Air Force launchings, notwithstanding the several capable correspondents covering the West-Coast sites. International news agencies have no record of some of these shots. Major US newspapers have omitted to report certain of them, even on occasions when News-Agency messages have been filed.

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FLIGHT MAGAZINE
16 August 1962

"It is appropriate to recall an editorial which appeared in this Journal on March 15. Shortly after that article was published - on April 3 - Ambassador Adlai Stevenson presented a list of US Satellites to the United Nations and publicly admitted 'inadvertent omission in our previous report.' Retrospectively he added to the list one of the 1961 Air Force launches.

Today, as we have said, the Russians are being as coy as the Americans in respect of certain launches. So do military undertakings bedevil the scientific recording of man's entry into space. Indeed, as the compiler of our table remarked with a sigh, keeping the record straight becomes daily more and more like Alice in Wonderland."

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Department Telegram dated 30 July 1962 reported the following from Rabat, Morocco:

"Istiqlal Journal AL ALAM July 28 carried without dateline item entitled 'USIA Discloses America's Military Secrets.' Referring to alleged quotation from J. Edgar Hoover to effect USSR need not spy on US since Soviets can obtain all they want from USG publications, report stated last week prophecy came true. USG circulated 10,000 copies of booklet 'containing many details about satellites launched by America for spying purposes.' Report continues 'one of Pentagon's generals' made 'big fuss' when he found booklet contained details of 'American spying satellites Samos and Midas.' Article concluded without further comment that USIA still repeating 'America has achieved great success in space research, why then not publish information?'"

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CHARLOTTE, N.C., DEC 4 (AP)-DR. RALPH E. LAPP, APPHYSICIST WHO WORKED ON THE WARTIME MANHATTAN PROJECT, SAID TODAY SATELLITES ARE PROVIDING EXCELLENT PHOTOGRAPHS OF RUSSIAN MISSILE INSTALLATIONS.

DR. LAPP, SPEAKING AT UQUEENS COLLEGE, SAID THAT THE INFORMATION GATHERED BY HIGH-POWERED CAMERAS IN OUR SATELLITES SHOULD BE REVEALED TO THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.

DR. LAPP SAID SATELLITES HAD "ENORMOUS IMPLICATIONS" FOR SOVIET MILITARY STRATEGY.

"THEIR WHOLE STRATEGY HAS BEEN BASED ON HAVING A WALLED COUNTRY," HE SAID. "NOW TECHNOLOGY IS OPENING UP THE SOVIET UNION. THEY HAVE TO BEHAVE AS IF THEY WERE AN OPEN COUNTRY."

DR. LAPP WORKED DURING WORLD WAR II ON THE TOP-SECRET MANHATTAN PROJECT WHICH DEVELOPED THE ATOMIC BOMB. HE IS NOW WITH A WASHINGTON CONSULTING FIRM.

THE CAMERAS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT IN VRBIT, LAPP SAID, PHOTOGRAPH 70-MILE WIDE STRIPS OF LAND. THE EXPOSED FILM PASSES INTO CAPSULES THAT ARE PARACHUTED BACK TO EARTH.

THE LATEST MODEL SATELLITE, HE SAID, CARRIES SIX FILM CAPSULES, EACH ABOUT THE SIZE OF A B

THE CAMERAS THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS PUT IN ORBIT, LAPP SAID, PHOTOGRAPH 70-MILE WIDE STRIPS OF LAND. THE EXPOSED FILM PASSES INTO CAPSULES THAT ARE PARACHUTED BACK TO EARTH.

THE LATEST MODEL SATELLITE, HE SAID, CARRIES SIX FILM CAPSULES, EACH ABOUT THE SIZE OF A BUSHEL BASKET.

THE PHOTOGRAPHS, WHILE NOT AS DETAILED AS THOSE ONCE TAKEN BY CAMERAS IN U-N AIRPLANES, ALLOW THE UNITED STATES TO MAKE FAIRLY ACCURATE ASSESSMENTS OF SOVIET MISSILE POTENTIAL, ACCORDING TO DR. LAPP.

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