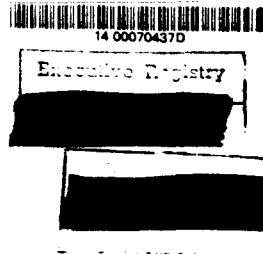




DEPARTMENT OF STATE  
WASHINGTON



January 22, 1962

~~SECRET~~

MEMORANDUM FOR GENERAL MAXWELL TAYLOR  
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: U.N. Registration of U.S. Space Launches

The enclosed paper summarizes the agreements we reached this morning regarding registration with the United Nations of data on successful U.S. space launches. If this accords with your understanding, will you please check it with the President to the extent you consider desirable.

Upon confirmation that this is the approved basis for U.S. registration, we will proceed promptly with the assistance of the Department of Defense and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration to submit an initial report which would include all objects of U.S. origin which are still in orbit. We will make the point in connection with our submission that the value of a public U.N. registry of the kind called for by the U.N. resolution will depend on compliance by all states which conduct launches. We will develop in coordination with Defense and NASA statements which might be used in U.N. debate or other discussions to explain and illustrate the satellite categories: e.g., "practical applications of space-based technology".

*/s/ U. Alexis Johnson*  
Deputy Under Secretary  
for Political Affairs

cc:



Declassified and Released by the N R C

In Accordance with E. O. 12958

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on NOV 26 1997

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REGISTRATION DATA FOR U.S. SPACE LAUNCHES

1. International designation of object.
2. Conventional designation of main vehicle.
3. Satellite category (one only of following:
  - a. Development of space-flight techniques and technology.
  - b. Space research and exploration.
  - c. Practical applications of space-based technology.
  - d. Non-functional objects.)
4. Date and time of launch.
5. Orbital parameters
  - a. Nodal period.
  - b. Inclination.
  - c. Apogee.
  - d. Perigee.

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The above information would be furnished for all U.S. space craft successfully launched in escape trajectories into solar orbits or placed in sustained orbit around the earth. DOD would submit relevant information to NASA which would transmit uniform data for both NASA and DOD launches to the State Department. U.S. reports would be submitted at approximately semi-monthly intervals and significant changes in data on previously reported space craft would be included.

It is not planned to include the following data:

1. Space craft making only a few passes but not remaining in orbit.
2. Transmitting frequency or status of transmission.

S/AE:PJFarley:reg  
1/22/62

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