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G. HARR, JR.

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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
Washington

March 26, 1959



MEMORANDUM FOR THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE
COUNCIL

Subject: Priorities for Satellite Programs

References: (a) NSC 5520
(b) NSC Actions Nos. 1433, 1484, 1545,
1653, 1656, 1713, 1765, 1799, 1800
and 1846

The following is presented for consideration
by the Council and action by the President as
appropriate.

At its meeting on 22 January 1958, the National
Security Council took the following action with respect
to certain satellite and missile programs included
in the National Priority List as recorded under NSC
Action No. 1846:

"Noted that the President, on the
recommendation of the Secretary of
Defense in consultation with the Special
Assistant to the President for Science
and Technology, has established the
following programs as having the highest
priority above all others for research
and development and for achieving
operational capability; scope of the
operational capability to be as approved
by the President.

(Order of listing does not indicate
priority of one program over another.)

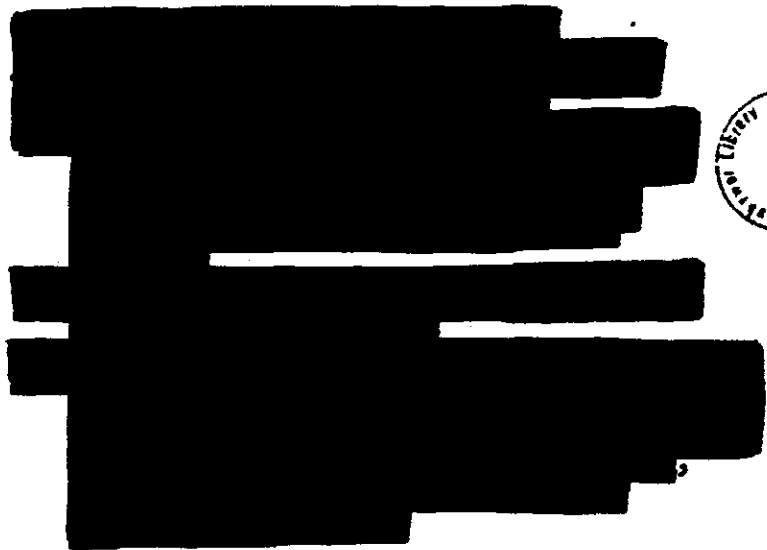


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It is believed that the satellite programs included in the above list should be re-examined for the following reasons:

(a) The International Geophysical Year ended as of 31 December 1958.

(b) The urgency associated with the achievement of early success in the VANGUARD program has been removed by the achievements attained by other follow-on programs.

In view of the above, the following recommendations are presented:

- (1) Delete IGY scientific satellite (VANGUARD-JUPITER C) programs from the National Priority List
- (2) Amend the item on "Satellite programs (other than VANGUARD and JUPITER C) determined by the Secretary of Defense to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import" to read "Satellite programs

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determined by the National Aeronautics and Space Council to have objectives having key political, scientific, psychological or military import."

- (3) In conjunction with recommendation (2) above, recommend that the following specific projects be included under the category of satellite programs:

SENTRY (Satellite borne visual and ferret reconnaissance system)

DISCOVERER (Satellite guidance and recovery)

MERCURY (Manned satellite)



/s/ Donald A. Quarles

Acting

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