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DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
OFFICE OF THE UNDER SECRETARY

MEMORANDUM

22 June 1965

General Stewart:

I think Dr. McMillan will want to scan this. The delay in exchanging down-looking satellite photography is most unfortunate. It looks like the new Soviet bosses are putting the screws to Academician Blagonravov (Lt General, Field Artillery).

Col Worthman

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

Tab B3
Policy: Space Law ✓
Policy: Peaceful Uses
Policy: Bilaterals

IN REPLY REFER TO: AI

JUN 11 1965

MEMORANDUM TO Addressees

SUBJECT: Status of US-USSR bilateral negotiations

On behalf of Dr. Dryden, we are providing the following report on the latest series of developments in the bilateral space discussions with Academician Blagonravov of the Soviet Academy of Sciences:

1. By letter of March 11, 1965, Blagonravov had proposed that US and Soviet representatives continue their discussion of a projected joint review of space biology and medicine during the COSPAR meeting scheduled for Buenos Aires in May. On March 19 and again on April 15 Dr. Dryden cabled Blagonravov in efforts to learn his intentions regarding discussions of first priority to resolve questions of meteorological data exchange and to implement an agreement in principle on the exchange of visits to deep space tracking and data acquisition facilities. Blagonravov did not respond until May 8, two days before the COSPAR meeting was scheduled to begin, when he cabled that he was not able to produce the experts necessary for negotiations (on any subject).

2. In Mar del Plata (where the COSPAR meeting had been moved), Blagonravov confirmed the contents of his May 8 cable. When the presence there of certain Russian experts was noted, Blagonravov stated privately that in fact he lacked authority to negotiate on any subject at the time.

3. Dr. Dryden arranged a private meeting with Blagonravov at which Blagonravov made statements to the following effect:

- (a) He deeply regretted his inability to proceed with the negotiations.

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GROUP 4
Downgraded at 5 year
intervals; declassified
after 12 years

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- (b) He hoped to be able to negotiate in New York next September during the planned meeting of the UN Outer Space Committee.
- (c) Prime reason for the Soviet failure to provide weather satellite data was that the quality of Soviet satellite pictures is not equal to American pictures nor up to the specifications of the agreement. The Hydrometeorological Service does not desire to transmit pictures of low quality which might raise questions of the parity of the exchange. Nevertheless, satellite pictures suitable for exchange are expected before the end of 1965. (It seems more likely that the Soviets simply have not yet established a meteorological satellite system than that pictures obtained are not up to snuff.)
- (d) Differences between NASA and the Academy of Sciences with regard to the proposed joint review of space biology and medicine can be discussed in New York in September but might be easier to deal with in correspondence.
- (e) The proposed exchange of visits to deep space tracking and data acquisition stations has been agreed within the Soviet Union but a response has been delayed since many agencies are involved in clearing the detailed program for the exchanges. The ultimate Soviet response can be expected to be favorable.
- (f) He was unaware that NASA had asked the Soviet Ministry of Communications for information on the Soviet communications satellite, suggesting possible cooperative experiments utilizing that satellite.

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(g) He is still chairman of the Academy's Space Commission but considers that the time may be approaching for him to resign.

4. As of July 1, it may be assumed that the Soviets are in default of the obligation imposed by the Second Memorandum of Understanding of November 5, 1964 to review the status of the meteorological data exchange "early" in 1965. We, therefore, plan to review the position in correspondence to Blagonravov before a possible September meeting, express the hope that the September meeting may find the Soviets in a position to meet their obligations under the agreement, and indicate that if they continue unable to do so the exchange of conventional meteorological data may have to be suspended until satellite data does become mutually available. We would also indicate continuing interest in resolving the two new subjects, namely, a review of space biology and medicine and exchange of visits to TDA stations.

AWF
Arnold W. Frutkin
Assistant Administrator
for International Affairs

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Addressees:

Mr. Carl E. Duckett, CIA
Mr. A. W. Johnson, WB
Mr. Charles E. Johnson, NSC
Mr. David S. Johnson, WB
Mr. Robert F. Packard, D/S-SCI
✓ Colonel Marshall E. Sanders, DOD-ISA
Dr. Irwin M. Tobin, OST
Dr. John W. Townsend, Jr., NASA-GSFC
Mr. Albert Weinstein, DOD-DDR&E
Dr. Edward C. Welsh, NASC
Dr. Albert Wheelon, CIA
Dr. Robert M. White, WB

cc: ·
Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Ambassador Llewellyn E. Thompson
Honorable Harold Brown
Honorable Donald F. Hornig
Honorable John T. McNaughton

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