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21 March 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Bilateral Talks Concerning US-USSR Cooperation  
in Outer Space

On 19 March 1963, the undersigned attended a meeting at which Lt Col [REDACTED] AFRST, reported on the recent US-USSR discussions in Rome on the above subject. Lt Col [REDACTED] 1011 [REDACTED] served as the DOD observer/advisor during these bilateral discussions. While he did not actually attend the bilateral sessions, he was present during all post-session critiques. Others present during Lt Col [REDACTED] report were:

Colonel [REDACTED] OSD  
Lt Col [REDACTED]  
Lt Col [REDACTED] DCA  
Mr Packard, State Dept

The bilateral meetings convened in Rome during the week of 11 March. The first day's discussions were held in a private apartment, adjacent to the US Embassy. Subsequent meetings were held in both the US and Soviet Embassies. The Chief US representative was Dr. Hugh Dryden, NASA, while the Chief Soviet delegate was Professor Blagenravov, Soviet Academy of Sciences.

Prior to the first day's session, select members of the US delegation met to discuss procedural aspects. It was decided:

a. Dr. Dryden would be primary US spokesman and would be responsible for (1) maintaining discipline of US members - i.e., no US member would speak without approval by Dr. Dryden, (2) Dr Dryden would set parameters of US discussions - once approved, US members would confine their discussions to texts previously cleared by Dr. Dryden.

b. If Soviets attempted to introduce non-technical agenda items (i.e., legality of overflights, etc.), such assertions would not be responded to by US. If Soviets persisted, Dr Dryden would terminate talks. (As it developed, such items were not introduced into the discussions by the Soviet delegates.)

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The programs discussed for US-USSR cooperation involved:

- a. Exchange of weather data from satellites.
- b. A proposal to map the magnetic field of the earth by means of coordinated launches of geomagnetic satellites.
- c. Cooperation in the experimental relay of communications via satellites.
- d. Establishment of a ground link communications system between Moscow and Washington.

Principal points:

- a. The Soviet delegation was composed of scientific personnel with an apparent genuine interest in the collection and exchange of technical data. No legal/political types present.
- b. Warm camaradie was tone of meeting.
- c. Soviets appeared very anxious to reach agreement on exchange of technical data. [REDACTED] surmised Soviet anxiety may be at least partly attributed (particularly in meteorological satellite field) to fact Soviets are technologically behind US in this area and have more to learn than to lose.
- d. During the third day's session (Wednesday) the Soviet delegation proposed "hemispheric" division of the areas of responsibility for provision of certain items of metro data. Initially, some confusion and concern resulted on this point due to language (interpretation) problems. However, after proper interpretation of the Soviet proposal, it was learned their intent was merely to propose primary responsibility for provision of data over Soviet controlled territories exist with the USSR technicians (since they know their own territory best) and vice versa as concerns provision of data by US technicians. Dr Dryden agreed to this proposal.
- e. At one point, the Soviet delegate stated he hoped US-Soviet agreement could be reached in meteorological area, since they wished to expand mutual US-USSR cooperation to other areas in space programs.

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f. Soviets were particularly anxious to implement commo link between Moscow and Washington to be used for exchange of data. This link is to be a land line from Moscow, thru Poland, Paris, London, New York, to Washington. Link is to be all commercial circuits - no military/DOD circuits involved. Funding is to be shared equally by Soviets/US. If other countries wish to participate, arrangements will be made to place such countries on "for receipt only -- no send basis" for meteorological data. Such countries will be assessed a pro-rata share of the cost of the entire commo link for such service. The commo link is scheduled to be operational by next summer (June).

g. The Soviets did not appear too enthusiastic (as described by [redacted] "no steam on either side") concerning either the magnetic mapping and/or the experimental communications relay. The magnetic mapping program is now dormant while discussions are continuing on the communications satellite relay. In latter instance, discussions centered around best frequencies to be utilized (i. e., 162 mkc vs 1750 mkc). Proposals covering exchange of meteorological data and establishment and funding of the Moscow-Washington communications link were drafted by the Joint delegations in Rome. Both sides agreed to a 60-day interval during which both Soviets and US would consider possible changes to the draft agreement. If no unresolvable items presented, drafts would be accepted and proposals implemented.

h. Lt Col [redacted] reported that Dr. Dryden had stated that copies of the bilateral draft agreements will be made available for DOD coordination within a matter of the next few days.

[redacted]  
Lt Colonel, USAF  
Asst Deputy for Plans & Policy  
Office of Space Systems

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