



In Accordance with E. O. 12958

on NOV 26 1997

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~



MEMORANDUM FOR MR. HARR

SUBJECT: Public Information Aspects of Outer Space Activities.

As you requested, I discussed with General Goodpaster on Monday, January 26, the circumstances which had led to Department of Defense objections to the recommended handling of public information activities in connection with the DISCOVERER series and the difficulties which this could pose for future OCB efforts at coordination. I also requested General Goodpaster to clarify my understanding of the substantive arrangements for the release of information which had been discussed between you, General Goodpaster and Murray Snyder.

General Goodpaster stated that Mr. Snyder had strongly urged that the first shot of the DISCOVERER series be opened to the press and that it had accordingly been agreed to do this. In view of the failure to launch the first (and second) shot, it was presumed that this agreement would hold until a successful launching. Pre-launch and launch-time releases, stressing the fact that this was an ARPA project, would be made from Vandenberg; post-launch reports would be collected and condensed in Washington and issued simultaneously by the Department of Defense and the Ballistic ^{Division} ~~Missile~~ ~~People~~ in Los Angeles.

General Goodpaster further stated that this pattern applied only to the first shot, and that the cover memorandum from the Department of Defense transmitting their information plan so stated. With regard to subsequent shots, there was almost "no area of Presidential restraint or decision"; however, his understanding of the Defense proposals was that the range would, if at all possible, be run on a closed basis and that he personally would desire that this be so. Even in those unusual circumstances when the range was opened, all news, except that of the actual launching, should come out of Washington. He believes that this is understood by and acceptable to the Department of Defense. With respect to the contretemps in the working group, General Goodpaster stated that the President looked to Mr. Snyder to handle all public information activities of the Department of Defense and that accordingly the Defense representative on the working group, whomever he might be, should reflect Mr. Snyder's views. He added that he could understand Mr. Snyder's reluctance to have a junior official in the Department of Defense, as working group representative, pass upon his plans and programs. He agreed, however, that Mr. Snyder should be asked to indicate the channels of coordination he proposed to use and suggested that information plans be filed directly with the Executive Officer of the OCB.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

-2-

Subsequent action. The gist of this information was conveyed to Mr. Smith and, with some deletions, to Mr. Hirsch. In view of the apparent agreement on substance among General Goodpaster, Murray Snyder and the working group, it was deemed best to await Defense's information plan for the second and subsequent shots of the DISCOVERER series. If problems arise either in substance or with respect to coordination, the issue will be brought before the OCB after your return, when Mr. Herter -- and hopefully Mr. Quarles -- will also be present.


JIC

