



OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 7, 1969

## MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

The President has formed a special Task Group to review the nation's space objectives and recommend future programs. The Task Group includes the Vice President as Chairman, the Secretary of Defense, the Administrator of NASA, and the President's Science Adviser. As appropriate, participation will be invited from the Secretary of State, the Director, BoB, the Director, CIA, Chairman of AEC, and other interested parties.

The first meeting of the Task Group was held this morning at the Executive Office Building with full attendance of the regular members. I was there as Mr. Laird's representative. Dr. DuBridge presented his views on the procedures to be followed and submitted for our review the attached document entitled "Space Task Group." Dr. DuBridge, as you can see from the document, is thinking of the long-term objectives in space, and wants to place considerable emphasis on the rationale for the program.

The other two documents that are attached were presented by Dr. Paine. One is entitled "Recommended Presidential Action", and the other is entitled "Suggested Plan for Task Group Consideration of NASA Manned Space Flight Matters Requiring Early Decision." It was agreed that there is a need for immediate review of the NASA follow-on program. President Johnson elected not to include funds for any major new programs beyond the lunar landing on the basis that the new Administration should select its own goals. Consequently, if any new major programs are to be included in the FY 70 budget, the decision must be reached within the next few weeks since, as you can see from the proposed schedule for the Task Group, the House Committee is marking up the NASA Authorization Bill before the Easter recess.

It should be clear that all three of the attached documents are draft copies and that the only decisions reached this morning were: (1) The State Department and Atomic Energy Commission would be included as observers on both the Task Group itself and at the senior staff level; (2) That there is considerable urgency to review matters affecting the NASA budget. These could possibly be included as a supplement at a later date, but if not included now would most likely have to await the FY 71 budget, and (3) The first meeting of the senior staff would take place on Tuesday, March 11, to discuss procedures that they will follow and commence reviewing the alternate plans that have been drawn up by NASA.

Following the meeting with the President's Task Group, I met with Mr. Packard and Dr. Foster and briefly reviewed the conduct of the meeting and discussed with them the manner in which DOD would participate. It was agreed that Mr. I. Nevin Palley, Assistant Director for Space Technology, DDR&E, would work directly with me and would be our senior staff delegate. He and I together will organize whatever special studies are required by DOD in order to assist the Task Group in the conduct of their review.

Signed  
Robert C. Seamans, Jr.  
Director, Office of Space and Aeronautics

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.

Attachments

cc: Mr. I. Nevin Palley

WASHINGTON

February 13, 1969

MEMORANDUM FOR

The Vice President

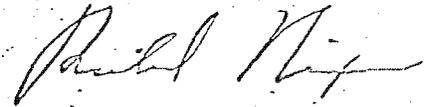
The Secretary of Defense

The Acting Administrator, National Aeronautics and  
Space Administration

The Science Adviser

It is necessary for me to have in the near future definitive recommendation on the direction which the U. S. space program should take in the post-Apollo period. I, therefore, ask the Secretary of Defense, the Acting Administrator of NASA, and the Science Adviser each to develop proposed plans and to meet together as a task group, with the Vice President in the chair, to prepare for me a coordinated program and budget proposal. In developing your proposed plans, you may wish to seek advice from the scientific, engineering, and industrial communities, from The Congress and the public. You will wish also to consult the Department of State (on international implications and cooperation) and other interested agencies, as appropriate, such as the Departments of Interior, Commerce, and Agriculture; the Atomic Energy Commission, and the National Science Foundation. I am asking the Science Adviser also to serve as staff officer for this task group and as coordinator of the staff studies.

I would like to receive the coordinated proposal by September 1, 1969.



WH 1595

SPACE TASK GROUP (STG)

Purpose:

To provide the President, by September 1, 1969, a coordinated program and budget proposal for the scope and direction of the space program during the Post-Apollo period.

Membership:

The Space Task Group consists of the following:

Vice President, Chairman

Secretary of Defense

Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Science Adviser to the President

As appropriate, participation will be invited from the Secretary of State, the Director, BoB, the Director, CIA, and other interested parties.

Staff Support:

Appropriate staff support will be provided by member agencies. No single unified staff is anticipated. A staff director's committee, chaired by OST, will meet on a regular basis to consult, to coordinate staff studies, and to monitor progress toward Task Group objectives. NASA and DoD would each appoint a senior staff director who will serve as a point of contact and represent NASA and DoD on the staff director's committee. The staff directors should be informed of all STG related efforts within their organizations, and have direct access to their principals on STG matters.

Special Studies:

To provide the basis for selection of alternative programs by the STG, studies will be conducted by the member agencies in those areas determined by the STG to be important to an informed judgment. In those areas which are program oriented, the study objectives will be to define hardware characteristics,

estimated development schedule, estimated development and operational costs, the character of the operations or experiments to be conducted and all other information relevant to determining the technological, scientific, economic, or political value of the program and its requirements for funds, facilities, manpower and other resources for the next ten years. The studies will be conducted by the responsible agencies or, where deemed appropriate by the STG, by an interagency working group.

### Outside Support:

The President has suggested that the STG "seek advice from scientific, engineering and industrial communities, from the Congress and the public." There are several mechanisms by which this may be accomplished. The STG may consider one or more of the following:

President's Science Advisory Committee -- The President's Science Advisory Committee, particularly the members of its Panel on Space Science and Technology, will be available to comment on the special studies and issues papers developed in the course of the study and to conduct such special inquiries as may be necessary and appropriate.

Other Advisory Committees -- The National Academy of Science through its Space Science Board may be asked to perform specific studies; within the principal agencies individual advisory groups may be utilized, such as the Defense Science Board, STAC, the Lunar and Planetary Missions Board, Astronomy Missions Board and the Research Advisory Committee for NASA.

Individual Associations -- The Aerospace Industries Association can be encouraged to address specific topics which would be of value to the Task Force.

Public Participation -- Professional societies, such as the AIAA and the AAS, could be requested to organize and convene special symposia in which the broad topic of the space program for the next decade or specific areas within this topic could be discussed with broad public participation.

The Congress -- The STG principals could arrange a series of luncheon meetings with key Congressional leaders in which the subject of the STG efforts would be discussed and views exchanged on the principal issues. It may also be desirable to arrange staff contact between the STG staff director's committee and appropriate members of the Congressional committee staffs.