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20 APR 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR The Honorable U. Alexis Johnson
Department of State

SUBJECT: ~~(S)~~ Occasional Reports to U. N. on Non-Registered U. S.
Satellites and Launches

As you recall, at the April 13 meeting of the 5412 Group, we discussed the desirability of occasional U. S. reports to the U. N. which would give some information about satellites and launches which have not been registered. The primary objective in submission of such reports would be to support our present registry rationale and minimize criticism of the U. S. in this regard. They would also provide a basis for refuting such charges as concealment of "aggressive" military space vehicles in omitting from the registry objects launched and decayed or deorbited between successive registry dates.

In order to meet these objectives, it is essential that these reports be submitted in a manner that will avoid the establishment of any precedent, either directly or by implication, which would result in commitment to disclose any information about future space launches in more detail than is included in the present U. S. registry procedure, or to disclose all future launches which are not registered.

It would seem, therefore, that the principal guideline which should be followed in all such U. S. reports would be to avoid setting any fixed precedent. The reports should be occasional, and not follow any regular schedule. In some instances we should wait until a reasonable number of reportable events have occurred, and in other instances we should report individual items of international scientific interest shortly after they occur. The format of the report should not be rigid, and the information content should be varied from report to report. I would think that the boosters used and the place of launch would be given for those events which are known by the public to have occurred. Neither the time of launch nor orbital parameters would normally be included. However, in the case of a satellite for which these data involve considerable international scientific interest, they could be given. For

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example, I see no reason why complete information could not be given in the case of the ANNA satellite, including orbital details. The reports should also occasionally include information on failures which occur prior to reaching orbit, and on some occasions failures in orbit could be included (as, for example, an ANNA failure in orbit).

It is particularly important that the process of reporting avoid any commitment, by implication or actual wording, that such U. S. reports include all failures or all space launches which have occurred but not been registered during the period of the report. It is also important that these reports be handled in a manner which will not connect them with the process of registry; although such reports do provide supplemental information to the information contained in the registry, they are not a registry action.

I would suggest that State obtain such occasional reports directly from NASA and the DOD, and submit consolidated reports to the U. N. Although NASA reports may normally include more information than DOD reports, it is essential that they be prepared under the same policy. We would propose that the Department of Defense reports be handled by a single Department of Defense staff office, after complete coordination with this office.

Signed

Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force

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