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Rm A1-1-2

25 May 1962

**MEMORANDUM FOR HONORABLE U. ALEXIS JOHNSON,
DEPARTMENT OF STATE**

**SUBJECT: Proposed Reports to the United Nations Regarding
Space Plans and Activities**

I refer to the May 12 position paper for the United States delegation to the May 28, 1962 meeting at Geneva of the Technical Subcommittee of the United Nations' Outer Space Committee.

Taken as a whole, the U. S. position outlined in this paper appears to be sound, although some parts are at least potentially vulnerable. I am particularly concerned over the proposal calling for national reports on space plans and activities. This action, as outlined in paragraphs 8.1(a), (b), and (c), could cause repeat of all of the difficulties of the launch registration proposal and be much more difficult to handle without serious embarrassment over and possible jeopardy to the U. S. military space program. The recent Soviet insistence that all orbital launchings be registered in chronological order, and that the Technical Subcommittee prescribe a unified standard registration procedure has placed the U. S. in a somewhat defensive, although defensible, position in the matter of registration. If the Soviets (or others) react similarly to the proposal to submit national reports on space plans, the U. S. will be forced either to submit reports on plans for military space activities (which obviously will be compared later with the registered launch data) or to insist that only some, not all, plans are to be reported. Either of these situations would seem to be most undesirable and in some respects much more difficult to cope with than the registration matter. Either would focus attention on the classified aspects of the U. S. space program.

Accordingly, I recommend that paragraphs 8.1(a), (b), and (c) be deleted from the referenced position paper and that the U. S. approach the objective of these deleted paragraphs by example rather than

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Committee proposal or resolution. The U. S. could submit reports on selected space projects voluntarily, while avoiding any formal commitment to do so. In this way the U. S. could exert positive leadership toward desired objectives while avoiding the possibility of being forced either to reveal military space plans or to refuse to do so after having encouraged the Committee to call for such reports.

Signed

**Joseph V. Charyk
Under Secretary of the Air Force**

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