SUBJECT: Outer Space Meetings — MOL or Gemini Issues

Following are instructions to deal with possibility Soviets will raise issue of MOL or Gemini:

1. MOL. Soviets may charge MOL is program to develop possible use of space orbital labs as platforms for dropping bombs, that program aimed at testing mini orbital nuclear weapons carriers. TASS concluded that CA Res 1884(XVIII) which banned orbiting nuclear or any other kinds weapons of mass destruction in outer space in effect covered both carriers and warheads proper.

DEA should point out MOL will not repeat not carry any weaponry whatsoever, that is space laboratory only which is intended conduct defense research primarily but will doubtless produce important benefits in terms scientific knowledge and advancement space exploration generally. There no relationship MOL and weapons in space. Fact program being run by Dept Defense irrelevant to charges many of both SOV and US astronauts are military.
military personnel and space activities both countries have had military as well as nonmilitary components. Question is not whether program is military or nonmilitary, question is whether program is aggressive or nonaggressive.

Size of MOL immaterial. Natural that as scientific progress in space proceeds, size space lab also increases. Could not require two men work one month in Gemini size craft. In terms size, MOL anticipated to be 40 ft long by 10 feet diameter. (MOL does not possess capability to be weapon carrier.) (MOL will not incorporate weapon carrying or delivery capability.) Design such that Gemini capsule will effect re-entry astronauts. MOL would burn up on re-entry. Furthermore, we have need develop orbital bombardment capability, since would offer no military advantage over operational ICBM's.

Re Res 1885, President Johnson when announcing MOL reaffirmed US intention not RFT not place weapons mass destruction in orbit.

2. Gemini. Should SOVs rep Gemini program as having military or non-peaceful aims, DEL should quickly brush aside as preposterous. Point to 1) world-wide publicity accompanying progress and achievements of program, 2) invitation of President Johnson to SOVs have rep next launch, and 3) US glad open all space launchings for inspection on reciprocal basis.

Should SOVs reopen spying from satellite issue, DEL may reiterate US position that observation from space is consistent with international law, just as is observation from the high seas. END

GP-3
SUBJECT: Outer Space Meetings -- MOL or Gemini Issues

Following are instructions to deal with possibility Soviets will raise issue of MOL or Gemini:

1. MOL. Soviets may charge MOL is program to develop possible use of space orbital labs as platforms for dropping bombs, that program aimed at testing mix orbital nuclear weapons carriers. TASS concluded that GA Res 1884(XVIII) which banned orbiting nuclear or any other kinds weapons of mass destruction in outer space in effect covered both carriers and warheads proper.

DEL should point out MOL will not repeat not carry any weaponry whatsoever, that is space laboratory only which is intended conduct defense research primarily but will doubtless produce important benefits in terms scientific knowledge and advancement space exploration generally. There no relationship MOL and weapons in space. Fact program being run by Dept Defense irrelevant to charge: many of both SOV and US astronauts are military
military personnel and space activities both countries have had military as well as nonmilitary components. Question is not whether program is military or nonmilitary, question is whether program is legitimate under international law.

Size of MOL immaterial. Natural that as scientific progress in space proceeds, size space lab also increases. Could not require two men work one month in Gemini size craft. In terms size, MOL anticipated to be 40 ft. long by 10 feet diameter. Design such that Gemini capsule will effect re-entry astronauts. MOL could burn up on re-entry. Furthermore, there is no need develop orbital bombardment capability, since would confer no military advantage over operational ICBM's.

Re Jan 1964, President Johnson when announcing MOL reaffirmed US intention not RPT not place weapons mass destruction in orbit.

2. Gemini. Should SOVs rep Gemini program as having military or non-peaceful aims, DEL should quickly brush aside as preposterous. Point to 1) world-wide publicity accompanying progress and achievement of program, 2) invitation of President Johnson to SOVs have rep next launch, etc. Should SOVs reopen spying from satellite issue, DEL may reiterate US position that observation from space is consistent with international law, just as is observation from the high seas. END.
SUBJECT: Outer Space Missions — MOL or Gemini Issues

Following are instructions to deal with possibility Soviets will raise issue of MOL or Gemini:

1. MOL. Soviets may charge MOL is program to develop possible use of space orbital labs as platforms for dropping bombs, that program aimed at testing and orbital nuclear weapons. TASS concluded that GA Res 1984 (XVI) which banned orbiting nuclear or any other kinds weapons of mass destruction in outer space in effect covered both carriers and warheads.

DOD should point out MOL will not repeat not carry any weaponry whatsoever, that is space laboratory only which is intended conduct defense research primarily but will doubtless produce important benefits in terms scientific knowledge and advancement space exploration generally. There no relationship MOL and weapons in space. Fact program being run by Dept Defense irrelevant to charge many of both Sov and US astronauts are military.

58026 (19 Sep 65) P/rda

AF DIST: X0PX-6, NIN-4, XPD-3, JAG-1, RDC-4 (24) Policy: MOL

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ACTION: USUN NEW YORK

CALL 53337

SERVICE

SUBJECT: Outer Space Missions — MOL or Gemini Issues

Following are instructions to deal with possibility Soviets will raise issue of MOL or Gemini:

1. MOL. Soviets may charge MOL is program to develop possible use of space orbital labs as platforms for dropping bombs, that program aimed at testing and orbital nuclear weapons. TASS concluded that GA Res 1984 (XVI) which banned orbiting nuclear or any other kinds weapons of mass destruction in outer space in effect covered both carriers and warheads.

DOD should point out MOL will not repeat not carry any weaponry whatsoever, that is space laboratory only which is intended conduct defense research primarily but will doubtless produce important benefits in terms scientific knowledge and advancement space exploration generally. There no relationship MOL and weapons in space. Fact program being run by Dept Defense irrelevant to charge many of both Sov and US astronauts are military.
military, personnel and space activities both countries have had military as well as nonmilitary components. Question is not whether program is military or nonmilitary. Question is whether program is legitimate under international law. 

Size of MOL immaterial. Natural that as scientific progress in space proceeds, size space lab also increases. Could not require two men work one month in Gemini size craft. In terms size, MOL anticipated to be 40 ft long by 16 feet diameter. Design such that Gemini capsule will effect re-entry astronauts. MOL could burn up on re-entry. 

Furthermore, there is no need develop orbital bombardment capability, since would offer no military advantage over operational ICBM's. 

Re Jan 1634, President Johnson when announcing MOL reaffirmed US intention not RPT not place weapons mass destruction in orbit. 

1. Gemini. Should SOVs rep Gemini program as having military or non-peaceful aims, DEL should quickly brush aside as preposterous joint to 1) world-wide publicity accompanying progress and achievement of program, 2) invitation of President Johnson to SOVs have rep next launch, etc. 

Should SOVs reopen spying from satellite issue, DEL may reiterate US position that observation from space is consistent with international law, just as is observation from the high seas. END.

RUSK
MEMORANDUM

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

Col. Worthman

Paul, would you please call me on this as soon as you have read it. I want to clear it today, if possible. I have attached one problem with it in its present form. I would like you to check it with the same office also.

Marshall
MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: USUN Msg 533

On 2 December, Colonel Marshall Sanders called concerning subject message. I extracted a copy from the file and phoned Sanders. His problem:

1. Scott George of State was ready to relay the contents of this message throughout State but had some reservation about the language in the second paragraph—starting on page 1:

   --He felt that we would get into discussion on definition of "weaponry."
   
   --By committing ourselves now, we deny U.S. flexibility in case we should want to alter position two or three years hence.

   I advised Sanders:

   --The language looked good to me, albeit a bit repetitive of the first paragraph.

   --We would not object to deletion.

   Sanders said he would advise George to delete the entire second paragraph.

RICHARD S. QUIGGINS  
Lt. Colonel, USAF

Atch  
USUN 533
MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: State Department Guidance to U.S. Delegation

The attached draft cable was sent to me by Colonel Marshall Sanders. Note the bracketed item on the second page. Colonel Sanders insisted State delete this element from the message.

Atch

PAUL E. WORTHMAN
Colonel, USAF

NOTE: A copy of this was sent to Colonel Norman, SAFSL
20 Sep 65