

AIRGRAM

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A-616

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TO : Department of State

1965 OCT 12 AM 9 21

HANDLING INDICATOR
Mr. Furtkin
13-21187

INFO: AMEMBASSY Moscow

Policy: Bilaterals

RM/AN
ANALYSIS & DISTRIBUTION
BRANCH

Policy: Peaceful Uses ✓

Policy: MOL

FROM : USUN

DATE: October 11, 1965

SUBJECT: Outer Space, MOL

*manned
Orbiting
Laboratory*

REF : CA-2690

G/P m

On 8 October the reporting officer was approached by Mr. G.S. Stashevski, a Foreign Ministry officer temporarily here with the Soviet Delegation to the UN Committee on the peaceful uses of outer space, who has also been helping out in the US-Soviet bilaterals. Stashevski said he had intended to have this conversation earlier, but had been delayed by the pressure of work. He regretted that he was departing on 10 October, and therefore could not reasonably expect to receive any response before he departed.

Stashevski cited conversations ~~from~~ two years ago between the two on the subject of nuclear weapons in space. The reporting officer said he had forgotten it. Stashevski said that although they had both been talking in more private than official capacities, the whole conversation had proven useful; he had conveyed the content to senior policy levels when he returned to Moscow, and he believed that their conversation was one of the factors which led to a greater awareness of the problem in Moscow and therefore, he asserted, contributed to the eventual unanimous adoption in October, 1963 of the "no weapons in orbit" General Assembly resolution.

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Stashevski said that he wanted to convey the serious apprehension of the Soviet scientific community with regard to the US MOL project. He said that he was not wearing his Foreign Ministry hat, but rather was speaking on behalf of scientists who feel a real need for assurances about US MOL intentions. He said the Soviet scientific community is worried about both the substance of the program, as well as the form in which it was presented; he explained that they could not understand why it was necessary for the President himself to present this plan.

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Stashevski said that he realized this was somewhat out of the ordinary but he thought perhaps the conversation of two years ago had justified his using this channel. He repeated he was not speaking as a Foreign Ministry official, nor did he wish to receive the "assurances" himself, rather he was speaking for "the scientists".

The reporting officer said it didn't sound as though any useful purpose would be served by his responding or pointing out assurances already given by, among others, President Johnson. He would, however, put an appropriate report into channels and perhaps something might come of it. He wondered how the sought-for assurances could be conveyed. Stashevski said that ideally they should be conveyed directly by American scientists to Soviet scientists when the opportunity arises, as in the case of the current bilaterals. The reporting officer commented that he doubted that much would happen, if at all, within the remaining day while the two scientific teams are here.

Subsequently, the Soviets raised the subject of MOL in the context of the bilateral talks; this is being reported by the American participants.

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