

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

September 28, 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Notes on Meeting with the President, 9:30 a.m.,
September 28, 1960



1. I first discussed the question of the extent of the involvement of PSAC in the 1962 military R&D budget. I showed the President a copy of our 1961 budget paper and he said he recalled it, and on my pointing out to him that we could undertake a similar task this year or could reduce it and do it on a more selective basis if he felt that a general paper of the type submitted to him last year was not useful, he said that he would like us to go over the 1961 paper, identify the issues where major changes have taken place in the last year and deal with this selective list of subjects only. He felt that a year's cycle is too short a time to change one's opinions or budgetary planning too much and that, therefore, there was no point in making thorough studies of everything covered in the 1961 paper.
2. Because of some proposals of General Greer regarding SAMOS, I asked the President whether he approved of our working fairly openly (i. e. announcing objectives and the existence of corresponding development contracts) on high resolution photographic reconnaissance satellites, or whether only the low resolution systems, which of course have already been made quite public, should be continued rather openly and the high resolution projects be kept as "black". He said that of course it would be futile to pretend that there can't be progress in satellite photography and that we aren't interested in it, but on the other hand he felt strongly that the really high resolution projects should be kept "black".
3. I told the President that Secretary Gates recently informed me that from his exchange with Watkinson, the British Minister of Defence, it is clear that our commitment to provide the British with Skybolt, the air-launched ballistic missile, for their bomber forces has become a very hot political issue in the UK and that the UK government could not for political reasons change its stand that this is the system they want. On the other hand, I pointed out our technical analysis of the project suggests that it will be much slower in coming than the Air Force estimates and will be exceedingly expensive. The President was quite concerned and asked me

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to tell Goodpaster so the latter could inform Secretary Herter of the technical concerns. Secretary Herter, in turn, could alert the Prime Minister, who is coming to Washington tonight.

4. I informed the President that our paper on Government Organization for Science and Technology is essentially ready and asked if he wished to have a meeting with the Committee to discuss our recommendations and if they would be useful to him in preparation of his paper to Congress on Government Reorganization. His first reaction was that the paper should be presented to the NSC, but I pointed out that it was an organization paper and that there would be another paper for the NSC dealing with broader issues of science and technology in context of national security. Thereupon, he decided the organization paper was not suitable for the NSC and asked whether everything recommended could be done by Executive action, and I told him there were a few things which could not. Then he said he didn't think that a "full dress" discussion with the PSAC would be helpful and suggested instead that we give the paper to his Committee on Government Organization - Flemming, Price and Milton Eisenhower - who might wish to incorporate some of our proposals in the paper they are preparing for him to submit to Congress.

G.B.K.

G. B. Kistiakowsky



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