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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

W. Allen 285

JUN 29 1964

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

The President
The White House
Washington, D. C.

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Authority E.O. 11652 SEC. 5(A) and (D)
By isp, NARS, Date 2-11-80

Dear Mr. President:

National Security Action Memorandum No. 285 requested further recommendations for cooperation with the Soviet Union on outer space matters appropriate to the Soviet attitude as of May 1. Action was deferred pending discussions which were scheduled to begin in late May in Geneva between Dr. Dryden and Academician Blagonravov. These discussions ended June 6. Their immediate product was a Second Memorandum of Understanding and a "protocol" providing for (1) further implementation of the existing bilateral agreement and (2) new cooperation in the preparation and publication of a major review of space biology and medicine in the US and USSR, with some consideration of future problems in this field.

The following briefly summarizes Soviet performance and attitudes thus far:

(1) Meteorological Satellite Cooperation--The Soviet delay so far in proceeding with this project is attributed by the Soviet side to technical factors, and this is believed quite plausible. A separate "protocol" on the subject, signed in Geneva, shows Soviet interest in prompt establishment of the long-agreed communications link between Washington and Moscow for exchange first of conventional weather data and, in early 1965, satellite data. A strong Soviet bid to abandon the earlier agreement for equal sharing of the cost of this link was dropped in the face of US insistence on mutuality and adherence to prior commitments.

(2) Satellite Communications-- The initial experiments with the passive satellite ECHO II were completed in early

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March. The Soviet experimenters have submitted an unusually comprehensive and apparently useful report which NASA is now evaluating. The Soviet side wished to defer discussion in Geneva of further experiments, although Dr. Dryden had proposed additional work with ECHO II as well as joint experiments with the active repeater communications satellites, TELSTAR or RELAY.

(3) Geomagnetic Mapping by Satellite--Work is proceeding independently in each country. Exchange of data obtained by certain ground-based observatories in support of the satellite projects has begun.

(4) Space Biology and Medicine--A proposal for cooperation in this field was made by the Soviet group, apparently in belated response to President Kennedy's first letter to Chairman Khrushchev on space cooperation in March, 1962.

The procedure for joint preparation of a comprehensive two- or three-volume review of past Soviet and American work in space biology and medicine, with some attention to future problems, was structured in accordance with an American counterproposal. The result offers a first step along the path delineated in our report to you last January 31 on future cooperation with the Soviet Union. Consistent with that report, the biology and medicine agreement for the first time opens the way to cooperation in an area related to manned space flight; moreover, since the Soviet Union is to provide reports or studies of its past work in this field, we shall have the desired opportunity to test the information supplied by the Soviet Union in the course of this project against our independent information. Soviet acceptance of each of the points put forward in this counterproposal again suggests increasing Soviet interest in reaching at least limited agreements.

The project is to be directed by a Joint Editorial Board of American and Soviet experts who will determine the detailed substantive content of the publication; companion articles on each subject are to be prepared independently by Soviet and American authors covering the work in their own countries. It may be hoped that this device

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will stimulate greater effort on the Soviet side to produce serious and comparable work. The final product will be published in English by the United States and in Russian by the Soviet Union, with each country funding its own share of the work.

The Joint Editorial Board is to be chosen by next October 1 and is to complete all planning work, including the selection of authors and their instruction, by December 1 of this year. Manuscripts are to be completed by the middle of 1965, with publication foreseen during 1966.

The Soviet group had also proposed that the US and the USSR engage in a "joint" program of research in closed ecological systems (of critical importance to long-duration manned space flights). This proposal, in fact, contemplated a program of independent research in each country but directed at common objectives. Dr. Dryden's team concluded that the prospects for proceeding prudently and meaningfully with such a "joint" research program could be evaluated with more confidence in Soviet objectives after observing their performance in the project for exchange of past results and further plans in the overall field of space biology and medicine. This decision is also consistent with the tactics laid out in the earlier report.

(5) Review--The agreements reached in Geneva are undergoing review here and in Moscow. Barring second thoughts, they should go into effect after a confirming exchange of correspondence during July.

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In general, the areas of cooperation upon which agreement has already been reached appear to represent the degree of involvement with the United States which the Soviets are willing to undertake at this time. Further projects of comparable character may, however, become negotiable in the near future. For example, in private conversation with Academician Blagonravov, Dr. Dryden sought to determine the current Soviet attitude toward cooperation in manned flight programs such as was proposed by President Kennedy and reiterated by Ambassador Stevenson on your

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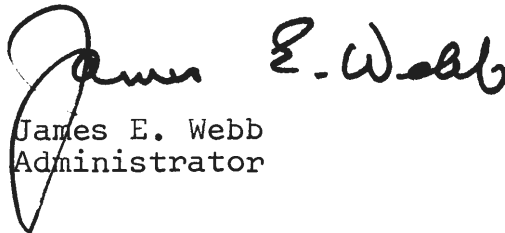
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behalf last fall. Blagonravov responded by expressing generalized interest in the NASA program for soft landing of instrumented packages on the moon, although he was clearly not prepared to take the lead in suggesting any specific possibilities for cooperation.

In the circumstances, and assuming that the Soviet side will demonstrate a desire to fulfill its existing commitments on the matters which come up for action in the next several months, we feel that the United States should adopt as positive an approach toward the next confrontation between Dr. Dryden and Academician Blagonravov as national program requirements will permit. The sessions of the United Nations Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space in New York next October will provide the next opportunity for such a meeting. At that time, we believe we should be prepared (1) to encourage the Soviet side to expand upon its interest in the lunar soft-landing program, (2) to have concrete and realistic proposals of our own in this area, and (3) to encourage and respond to any new initiatives which may be forthcoming from the Soviet Union at that time. Beyond this, any more far-reaching overtures by the United States at the present time would appear to go beyond the Soviet's current state of readiness.

Respectfully yours,



James E. Webb
Administrator

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