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August 27, 1962

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 183

MEMORANDUM TO: Secretary of State
 Secretary of Defense
 Director of Central Intelligence
 Administrator, National Aeronautics
 and Space Administration
 Director, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency
 Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
 Director, Office of Science and Technology

(SUBJECT: Space Program of the United States)

The President desires that the space program of the United States be forcefully explained and defended at the forthcoming sessions of the UN Outer Space Committee and the General Assembly. The Department of State is requested to consult with the Department of Defense, CIA, NASA, AEC, AGDA and the Office of the Science Advisor to develop positions which meet the following objectives:

1. To show that the distinction between peaceful and aggressive uses of outer space is not the same as the distinction between military and civilian uses, and that U. S. aims to keep space free from aggressive use and offers cooperation in its peaceful exploitation for scientific and technological purposes.
2. To build and sustain support for the legality and propriety of the use of space for reconnaissance. This position should proceed from the approved recommendations of the report submitted on this subject on June 20, 1962.
3. To make it plain that neither U. S. nuclear tests nor other U. S. experiments in space were undertaken without a proper sense of scientific responsibility, and that, in the case of the nuclear tests, these were a response to previous Soviet tests.
4. To demonstrate the precautionary character of the U. S. military program in space.
5. To show that U. S. policies for communication satellites are fully consistent with cooperative international arrangements.

cc: Mrs. Lincoln
 Mr. Bundy's File
 BSmith/CEJohnson
 NSC Files

/s/ McGeorge Bundy

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