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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 10, 1965

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NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 50 (REVISED)

TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Director, Office of Science and Technology
The Executive Secretary, National Aeronautics
and Space Council

SUBJECT: Launching into Space of Systems Involving Nuclear Power

This memorandum supersedes NSAM 50, dated May 12, 1961
(Confidential).) *also DF*

The President's approval is required for all launches of nuclear power devices into space. This includes orbital and sub-orbital tests of nuclear rockets and nuclear auxiliary power systems (SNAP's). Minor radioactive calibration and heat sources are exempted from the necessity for such approval.

Criteria for approval will include probability of mission success, health and safety factors, and international political considerations, and will be based upon recommendations of the cognizant departments and agencies. While a single approval action for a series of similar tests will suffice, the Secretary of State will be consulted with respect to the timing of each test.

Official announcement of launches involving nuclear power devices will be made by the White House Press Secretary, unless he directs otherwise.

The Executive Secretary of the National Aeronautics and Space Council will be responsible for coordinating requests for approval action and announcements of such launches.

McGeorge Bundy
McGeorge Bundy

cc: Press Secretary
The Director, United States Information Agency
W. J. Howard, Jr.

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