

The Vice President's Office
Office of the Press Secretary

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AUGUST 31, 1992

VICE PRESIDENT ANNOUNCES SPACE POLICY REVIEW

Vice President Quayle today directed his Space Policy Advisory Board to conduct a broad review of current U.S. national space policy in the context of the end of the Cold War and other factors.

For nearly 35 years, the civil, commercial, and national security space programs of the United States have evolved within a policy framework that reflected the international tensions of the time. Changes brought about by the end of the Cold War, along with the development and proliferation of space-related technology, present new challenges and new opportunities for cooperation and progress.

An Advisory Board Task Group will be established to assess national space policies and recommend changes where appropriate. Among the policies to be considered are those affecting the synergism among civil, commercial, and national security activities; international cooperation and trade; the organization and management of U.S. government space activities; and, the relationship between government and industry.

The Task Group will provide its findings and recommendations to the Vice President by mid-December 1992. These recommendations will form the basis for policy deliberations leading to decisions by the President early in the next Administration.

The Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board was established by executive order on April 20, 1989. Dr. Laurel L. Wilkening, Chair of the Advisory Board, will serve as Chair of the Space Policy Assessment Task Group. Other members of the Task Group will be announced in the near future.

A copy of the Advisory Board's task statement is attached. For additional information call:

Elizabeth Prestridge, National Space Council, 202-395-6175.

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VICE PRESIDENT'S SPACE POLICY ADVISORY BOARD
NATIONAL SPACE POLICY ASSESSMENT
TASK STATEMENT
AUGUST 31, 1992

A Task Group of the Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board is being formed to conduct a broad review of current U.S. national space policy in the context of the end of the Cold War and other factors.

The fundamental principles which have guided the conduct of U.S. space activities were initially established nearly 35 years ago. The civil, commercial, and national security space programs of the United States have evolved within a policy framework that reflected the international tensions, as well as the economic and technological constraints and other factors of the time.

The situation has now changed. The end of the Cold War, the revolution in electronic and other space-related technologies, the international demand for space capabilities along with the proliferation of space technology to other nations, the lessons learned concerning the military use of space during Desert Storm, and other factors present new opportunities for cooperation and progress. The budget deficit and changes in the aerospace industrial base associated with lessened defense spending impose new constraints. More than ever before, the United States must ensure that it gets maximum return from its investments in space.

The Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board is currently assessing two critical areas that are building blocks for a successful space program. One Task Group is examining ways that America's critical space-related industries are being affected by the defense build-down. A second Task Group is seeking to defy the limits of scarce resources by identifying ways to provide the nation with low cost launch systems that are safer and more reliable than the aging systems of today and more responsive to military and civilian needs. The findings and recommendations of these assessments will provide a solid foundation for this comprehensive policy review.

In considering the affect of the new opportunities and constraints on U.S. national space policies, the Task Group should make policy recommendations which would have the affect of increasing the efficiency of federal government space activities to enable the best space program possible for the funds available; maintaining U.S. leadership and competitiveness for the 21st century; and, maintaining an industrial base capable of supporting future national security, and civil and commercial space requirements.

The following policy areas should be among those considered.

- o Policies affecting the synergism between civil, commercial, and military space activities in areas such as:
 - Cooperative development and sharing of new technology;
 - Greater use of common infrastructure such as launch facilities and ground tracking and data relay capabilities;
 - Greater use of common components, possibly adopting the commercial practice of using standard design satellites with mission unique payloads or establishing common design standards;
 - Shorter acquisition schedules that might be achieved by adopting the best attributes of commercial, military, and civil government procedures;
 - Improved industrial productivity and accelerated transfer of technology and experience among space programs, possibly through some prudent adjustments in security and classification requirements and procedures;
 - Enhanced international competitiveness of the U.S. private sector through the easing of government restrictions on the export of satellites and space technology; and,
 - Increased use of commercial services to support federal government space requirements.
- o Policies affecting international space cooperation including:
 - The potential for achieving U.S. space goals at lower cost or at higher levels of performance and reliability;
 - The potential for the U.S. private sector to benefit from technologies developed in other countries;
 - The potential implications for the U.S. domestic aerospace industry sector of federal government use of foreign suppliers to achieve U.S. space missions; and,
 - The potential risks associated with dependence on foreign governments and their private sector industries for components, systems, or the development of advanced technologies essential for U.S. space missions.

- o Policies affecting the organization and management of government space activities which would enable faster, better, and less expensive programs. Considerations may include:
 - Institutional roles and responsibilities;
 - Acquisition oversight, particularly with regard to joint programs;
 - Space operations; and,
 - The appropriate role of state and local governments and the private sector in the conduct of federal government space activities.

- o Policies affecting the relationship between government and industry with a focus on ways to foster technological competitiveness and strengthen the overall U.S. trade stance in international markets.

In carrying out its assessment, the Task Group should review current space policy guidance and assess the current applicability of those fundamental principles and assumptions that have historically guided the U.S. space program. It should build on the findings and recommendations of the Vice President's Space Policy Advisory Board Task Groups currently assessing space launch and industrial base-related issues, and should consider recent reviews of U.S. space policy and programs, when applicable, including the 1990 report of the Advisory Committee on the Future of the U.S. Space Program.

The Task Group should complete its assessment of U.S. space policy and provide a written report and briefing on its findings and recommendations by December 20, 1992.