

UNITED STATES ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT AGENCY
WASHINGTON

TOP SECRET

AUG 10 1962

OFFICE OF
THE DIRECTOR

Dear John:

You will recall that in connection with the recent review of questions related to the reconnaissance satellite program, it was the view of the agencies concerned that the United States should oppose any declaratory ban on the placing in orbit of weapons of mass destruction. The President has, however, expressed an interest in this possibility, and ACDA is currently preparing a summary of pros and cons with a view to discussing the matter with the Committee of Principals prior to further discussion with the President.

One question that arises is whether our national capabilities alone would be sufficient to provide assurance that such a ban was being observed. The capabilities involved would be primarily those bearing on detection of Soviet space launchings, detection of objects in orbit, and our ability to determine the functions of objects in orbit.

It would be very helpful if a briefing covering these matters could be arranged for myself and a limited number of my staff who have appropriate clearances. A list of persons who would attend such a briefing is attached. I would hope this could be done as early as possible during the week of August 13.

The Honorable
John A. McCone, (*Handwritten initials*
Director,
Central Intelligence Agency. *Handwritten initials*

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State Dept. review completed

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Specific arrangements can be made with Mr. Gathright of ACDA, who will be in touch with Mr. Russell Fee of your staff on a preliminary basis pending your confirmation of this request.

Sincerely,



William C. Foster
Director

Enclosure:

List.

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ACDA PERSONNEL TO

ATTEND BRIEFING ON SPACE VEHICLE

DETECTION CAPABILITIES

William C. Foster, Director
Henry A. Byroade
Jacob D. Beam
Dr. Frank A. Long (unless absent in Geneva)
Vice Adm. Edward N. Parker
Dr. George W. Rathjens
Wreatham E. Gathright

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