

9-8-27

20 November 1957

Honorable Joseph C. Grew
[redacted]
Washington 8, D. C.

Amel

[redacted]
4/3/81

Dear Joe:

I have received your letter of 11 November, with the enclosed letter from [redacted]. I remember his father well from the days of World War I. You can tell [redacted] that we were not surprised by the first Soviet satellite launching, nor by the second. We had estimated that they would launch a satellite during 1957. Furthermore, the Russians themselves had made several scientific pronouncements on the subject.

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As for the second satellite, it was launched on 3 November. Winslow seems to have missed the story published in most papers in this country on 11 and 12 October, which carried a report from the State Department that we should anticipate a second launching within the near future.

Furthermore, we can normally expect that the Soviets will launch further satellites from time to time, possibly even earlier than [redacted].

For some reason or other, far too many people have been disposed to underrate the Russians, and expect us to get all the "firsts". They put more emphasis on the satellite than we did and with fully competent scientists, they got it first.

There is no objection to your sending on a copy of the foregoing to [redacted] if you wish. I should like very much to drop around and see you some afternoon, at your convenience. It has been far too long since we have had a talk and there are several matters, including the Free Europe Committee, I should like to discuss with you.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Allen W. Dulles

[Signature]

AWD/ji
Distribution:
1 - DCI
DD/I
'MC

-1 - ER w/basic

[redacted]

JOSEPH C. GREW

[Redacted]

WASHINGTON 8, D. C.

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November 11, 1957

Dear Allen:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter from [Redacted]

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[Redacted]

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although my own records are a little mixed up owing to my recent illness. It will be helpful if you will drop me a line to say that you have safely received a copy of [Redacted] letter and will know how to deal with it.

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A little heart trouble has recently kept me under the weather, but I am pulling out of it and hope to be back on routine very soon.

Yours as always,

JCG

The Honorable Allen W. Dulles

Director of Central Intelligence Agency

Washington, D. C.

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Enclosure: Copy of letter from [Redacted]

dated November 3, 1957, to Joseph C. Grew.

COPY



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Dear

Please excuse this letter if it is out of order, but under the circumstances I feel compelled to write the following to you. I'm aware of the fact that the matter does not fall within your field of operations at this point, but I am also sure that you can evaluate the facts and make certain that they reach the right hands.

When Russia launched "Sputnik", I took it for granted that our intelligence department was aware of its fabrication and prompt dispatch. Obviously I was wrong. By all reports it took the whole world by surprise. (With your permission, I salute the enemy for opening an oyster not heretofore digested.)

A magnificent scientific achievement like Sputnik deserves commendation no matter what its potential threat to us - - - and being familiar with Patrick AFB, Florida, I'm reasonably sure that I can measure the extent of the actual gain that Russia has made. It doesn't worry me technologically, because I know what we have.

But what happened yesterday scared the HELL out of me.

For more than two weeks I've known that the Russians were going to launch another satellite, yet the whole world has been again taken by surprise!!! Perhaps CIA was aware of the fact - - - but if so why in the name of Heaven didn't they forecast the fact? By so doing they would have taken all the added propaganda value out of the second launching!

Somebody missed a fly ball; - perhaps - .(?)

No matter: - - - what follows is perhaps important:

FROM THE SAME SOURCE THAT I LEARNED OF THE SECOND LAUNCHING I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WOULD BE A THIRD TO BE LAUNCHED AFTER XMAS AND

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Please, [redacted] pass this information along to State and C.I.A. I beg you to do this for me because, if sent directly by me, it would take at least a month to reach Mr. Dulles and Mr. Dulles. I know only too well the length of the red tape to the boss' office!!

Addenda: Have powerful radio with me at all times and have listened to V/of/A all over continent....always with an audience, an argument, a cease-fire, and a last word for chistendom, democracy or just plain decency. (With all three aboard, I haven't made anything but good friends ever since returning.)

All the most since regards and good wishes extant;

[redacted]
[redacted]

25X1

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No copies.
No file

ER 9-8627

Mr. Joseph C. Grew

[redacted]
Washington 8, D. C.

Dear Joe:

Thank you for your letter of 11 November and the enclosed letter from young [redacted]. As you can imagine, we have been getting this same type of reaction from a number of people outside of the Government. For your own information, we have not been surprised by the Soviet satellite launchings, but we do not believe that it is our position to keep the public (and the Russians) informed of what we do or do not know about the Soviet Union. In the case of the second satellite, [redacted] seems to have missed the story published in most papers in this country on 11 and 12 October, which carried a warning from the State Department that we should expect this second launching within the near future.

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You can imagine the fun that we are having at a time like this in world affairs. Thank you again for your letter.

Sincerely yours,

Allen W. Dulles
Director

O/DD/I [redacted] 3249(18 Nov.57)

Distribution:

- O&I - addressee ✓ 1 - DCI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - ER
- 1 - DDI
- 1 - WAT

CONFIDENTIAL

[redacted]

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

Just

I remember his father well.

Honorable Joseph C. Grew

[Redacted]
Washington 8, D.C.

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Dear Joe:

we were not

Thank you for your letter of 11 November and the enclosed letter from young [Redacted]. ~~As you can imagine, we have been getting this same type of reaction from a number of people outside of the Government. For your own information, we have not been surprised by the Soviet satellite launchings, but we do not believe that it is our position to keep the public (and the Russians) informed of what we do or do not know about the Soviet Union. In the case of the second satellite, [Redacted] seems to have missed the story published in most papers in this country on 11 and 12 October, which carried a warning from the State Department that we should expect this second launching within the near future.~~

[Redacted]

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can't tell

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I hope that this will find you feeling considerably improved and trust that it won't be too long before we can get together for a good talk.

Sincerely,

As la

Allen W. Dulles
Director