



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
2430 E STREET, N. W.
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

19 January 1960

TO: Honorable Bob Wilson
House of Representatives
Washington 25, D.C. ATTN: Leon Parma

FROM: John S. Warner
Legislative Counsel, CIA

Telephone

25X1

As we discussed the other day,
I am attaching a suggested response
which the Congressman may wish to use
in replying to the letter which he received
concerning Mr. Lloyd Mallan and his
article THE BIG RED LIE.

JOHN S. WARNER
Legislative Counsel

DRAFT

Dear Mr. _____:

In your letter of _____ to me you enclosed a column "Listen Americans!" by Dr. George S. Benson, President of the National Education Program, Searcy, Arkansas. Dr. Benson's article deals with Mr. Lloyd Mallan's story THE BIG RED LIE.

As you know, Mr. Mallan's article created nationwide interest in whether or not the Soviets actually launched a space rocket toward the moon on 2 January 1959. This article was also the subject of considerable government scrutiny. In addition, the House Committee on Science and Astronautics held extensive hearings on the subject. A number of the nation's top missile and rocket experts testified at these hearings and Mr. Mallan was given the opportunity to defend his position that "lunik" was a hoax. I am enclosing with this letter copies of the Committee's report. You will note that in the conclusions of this report, the Committee states that, "although absolutely convincing proof is not available, there is a preponderance of good evidence that the Soviet Union, in the first days of 1959, launched a rocket toward the moon."

While Mr. Mallan was generally more right than wrong in his assertions concerning Soviet aircraft, information developed in these hearings and that given me by executive agencies concerned indicates that

his statements relative to Soviet guided missiles and space vehicles, particularly his allegation that their lunik and missile threat did not exist, are not supported by the facts.

I trust you will find the enclosed material of interest.

Very truly yours,

Enclosures: