

STATINTL

9 of 10 Countries Agree

USIA Polls Show U. S. Prestige Dip Abroad Since Launching of Sputnik

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Staff Reporter

Public opinion polls and research in foreign countries which the Administration itself has conducted over the past few years show conclusively that U. S. prestige has been unquestionably on the decline ever since the Soviet Union's Sputnik went into orbit in October, 1957.

These are the findings to date of a secret top-level group appointed by President Eisenhower last Dec. 2 and called the President's Committee on U. S. Information Activities Abroad. The Committee is headed by Mansfield D. Sprague, vice president of the American Machine & Foundry Co. and, until 1958, Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security.

The U. S. "image" abroad—what other people think of us—has become a key issue

in the current Presidential election campaign.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon, in his plea for the continuance of a Republican Administration, has declared: "At the present time, Communist prestige in the world is at an all-time low and American prestige is at an all-time high."

Sen. John F. Kennedy (D-Mass.) has declared: "Our prestige is not so high. No longer do we give the image

President of District Board of Education suggests high school language courses in Arabic, Hindu and Indonesian. Page D1.

of being on the rise. No longer do we give an image of vitality."

Now it has been learned that, after Sputnik, the United States Information Agency began a series of polls in 10 countries, covering all regions of the globe. USIA asked such questions as:

- Which country do you think is more advanced scientifically—the U. S. or Russia?
- Which country do you think is going to be stronger

militarily 5 or 10 years from now?

- Which country is going to be the leading country in the world in this period?

In 9 of the 10 countries polled, according to a source familiar with the results, "the general picture shows that without any question whatsoever the peoples' confidence in the U. S. as the wave of the future, as a dynamic, growing country, has been on the decline since Sputnik commenced."

The countries polled include the Philippines, Greece, Japan and Germany. The other countries were not identified by source.

Central Intelligence Agency charts presented to the Sprague Committee have, according to this source, "confirmed the blackest allegations that the Democrats have made."

A summary of the U. S. "image" abroad was prepared by USIA six months ago, detailing loss of confidence in the United States as a world leader.

The summary, as well as the other CIA data, have been carefully studied by the Sprague Committee's top members. They are: Allen W. Dulles, director of CIA;

See PRESTIGE, A25, Col. 6