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USSR

OLC 75-1352

4 June 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: DCI Briefing of the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies of Senate Appropriations Committee on the Soyuz/Apollo Flight.

1. On 4 June 1975, Carl Duckett, DDS&T, briefed the Subcommittee on Housing and Urban Development, and Independent Agencies of the Senate Appropriations Committee on the Soyuz/Apollo flight. The meeting lasted from 0930 hours until 1100 hours. A technical sweep of the room, 1223 Dirksen Office Building, was conducted and the room was kept under technical monitoring throughout. The briefing included Top Secret/Sensitive material. A transcript was taken.

2. Present from the Subcommittee were:

William Proxmire (D., Wis.), Chairman
Birch Bayh (D., Ind.)
Lawton Chiles (D., Fla.)
J. Bennett Johnston (D., La.)
Walter D. Huddleston (D., Ky.)
Milton R. Young (R., N. Dak.)

3. Present from the Subcommittee staff were:

Ron Tammen
Robert B. Clark
Gilford Keyes

4. Accompanying the Director were:

Carl Duckett, DDS&T
George L. Cary, Legislative Counsel

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5. In his opening statement, Senator Proxmire expressed his concern about the safety of the American astronauts in the upcoming Apollo/Soyuz project. He said he had expressed this concern prior to today's briefing and it was a matter of great interest to him. Mr. Proxmire also raised a question of our reviewing the transcript of Mr. Duckett's testimony with a view to sanitizing it for publication. Mr. Duckett indicated that the bulk of the material on which this briefing was based was from extremely sensitive sources, [redacted] and that to eliminate that information from the transcript would give a distorted impression of the facts. Mr. Duckett suggested that perhaps we could work with the Subcommittee staff in preparing an unclassified statement which could be used in a Committee report on this subject.

6. The Chairman also asked Mr. Duckett to alert the Subcommittee and brief them on any additional information that might come to our attention that has a bearing on the safety of the upcoming mission. Mr. Duckett agreed to do this. Lastly, the Chairman asked Mr. Duckett if the unclassified charts used in his presentation could be reduced to page form and included in the published material. Mr. Duckett said they could.

7. Mr. Duckett read a prepared statement and then responded to questions from the members. Chairman Proxmire was interested not only in the safety of the mission as far as U. S. astronauts were concerned but also asked a number of questions as to what benefits would derive to the U.S. from this program. Mr. Duckett said he felt there were very few technical benefits that would be derived from this mission from the U. S. standpoint -- the benefit would have to be assessed in terms of the political aspects of it. He also pointed out that the Apollo program is way ahead of the Soviets but even so, the advantages to the Soviets were fairly minimal since much of the information on the Apollo program is in the public domain. The principle advantage to the Soviets would be in their exposure to the more efficient U. S. training procedures.

8. Senator Young asked the interesting question of, whether, in case of an emergency, who makes the decision as to the action to be taken. Mr. Duckett said that throughout the flight each crew will be responding to directions from his own country. The only time that this becomes at all confusing is during the docking situation where the two spacecraft are mated together. It has been agreed, however, that in the event of an emergency, the two spacecraft will undock and each spacecraft handle its own situation. In response to a question from Senator Young about the language barrier, Mr. Duckett said each of the crews has been trained in the other's language and while they are not proficient, it is believed that they have had sufficient language training to satisfy their purposes. Mr. Duckett was asked how far out in space the docking will occur. He responded he thought about 150 miles but he would double check on this.

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9. Senator Chiles asked how long the two spacecraft would be mated together, Mr. Duckett replied approximately 42 hours. Senator Chiles also asked how many men can return in each of the spacecraft. Mr. Duckett said that he thought only the two Soviets could return in their spacecraft, although they might possibly squeeze in a third person. Certainly, they could not get all four in the Soviet craft. On the other hand, the Apollo spacecraft could, if necessary, accomodate all four spacemen.

10. Senator Huddleston raised the interesting question of whether we would be losing any of our classified technology in the course of this project. Mr. Duckett said that all necessary precautions are being taken by NASA officials to avoid this possibility. The Chairman asked what we thought would be the next big space activity on the part of the Soviets. Mr. Duckett responded that he expected it would be a Venus probe.

11. Follow up Actions - At the conclusion of the briefing, Senator Proxmire raised a number of questions and asked that they be answered for the record. Those questions and the others are as follows:

- a. Provide the committee with page-sized versions of the unclassified charts and the diagram of the Soviet and U.S. spacecraft.
- b. Check on the actual point in space at which docking will occur.
- c. How much have the Soviets spent for their space program, especially in the past ten years.
- d. What is our assessment of the cost of the Soyuz/Apollo program to the Soviets.
- e. Provide figures on the number of military and civilian personnel in the Soviet space program.
- f. To what extent are the Soyuz flights being used for intelligence and military purposes.
- g. Is Soviet work on an anti-satellite satellite, a violation of the outer space treaty (Mr. Duckett indicated that this wasn't really our responsibility. However, we might check with the State Department to see if they have any position on this).

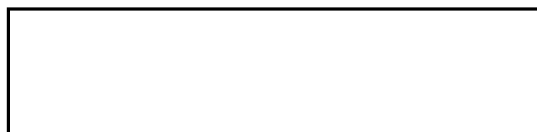
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h. Review the question of the relative advantages of the joint space program to both the U.S. and the USSR for publication.

8. At the conclusion of the briefing, Senator Proxmire complimented Mr. Duckett on his presentation and also referred to the excellent intelligence briefing he had received from the Director and our economists on the state of the Soviet and Chinese economies. He characterized these briefings as invaluable. Senator Bayh seconded this statement and said that during these times of criticism of CIA he thought it was important to give us credit where credit was due. Senator Proxmire indicated that the briefing had not changed his basic position with respect to the joint program -- he is still opposed to it on the basic grounds that it exposes U.S. astronauts to an undue safety risk and there is little if anything for the United States to gain from this exercise and more to be gained by the Soviets.

9. At the expiration of the briefing I talked privately with Senator Bayh and said I had noticed his remarks in the Congressional Record the other day with respect to legislation to bar the use of the polygraph in Government, except for possible use for intelligence purposes. I told him that as he probably knew, we made extensive use of the polygraph as an investigative aid in our employment procedures and found it to be most useful. I told him that we would be happy to meet with him and discuss this in detail at his convenience. He said he would want to do this before hearings are held on the legislation and commented that he might come down on the other side of our position, but he was certainly willing to hear our case.



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George L. Cary
Legislative Counsel

Distribution:

Original - Subject file

1 - DDS&T, Mr. Duckett

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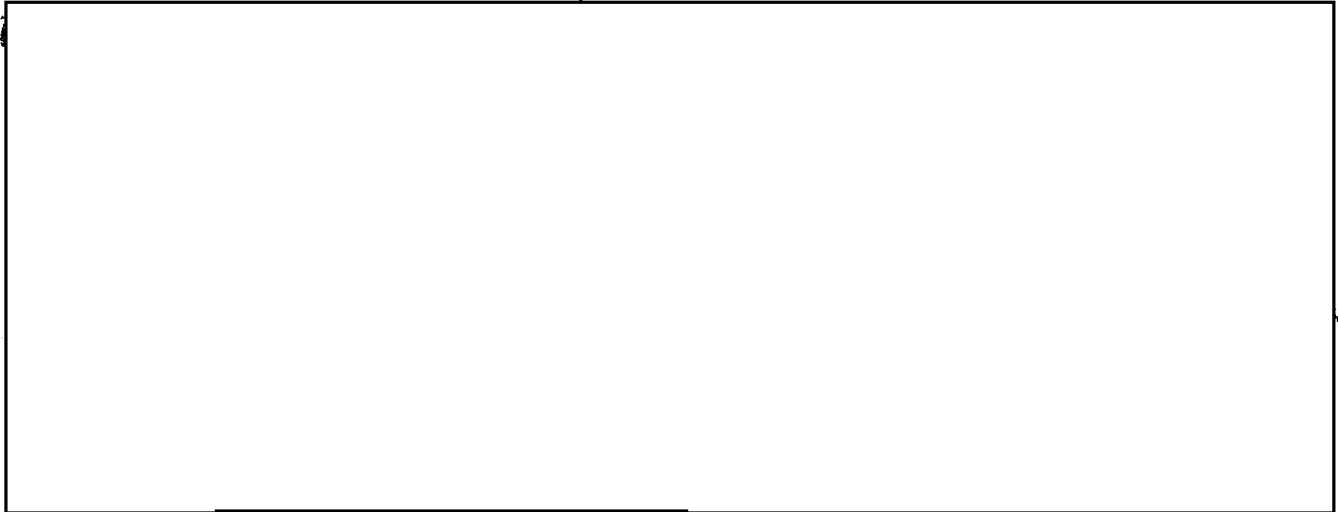
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OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL

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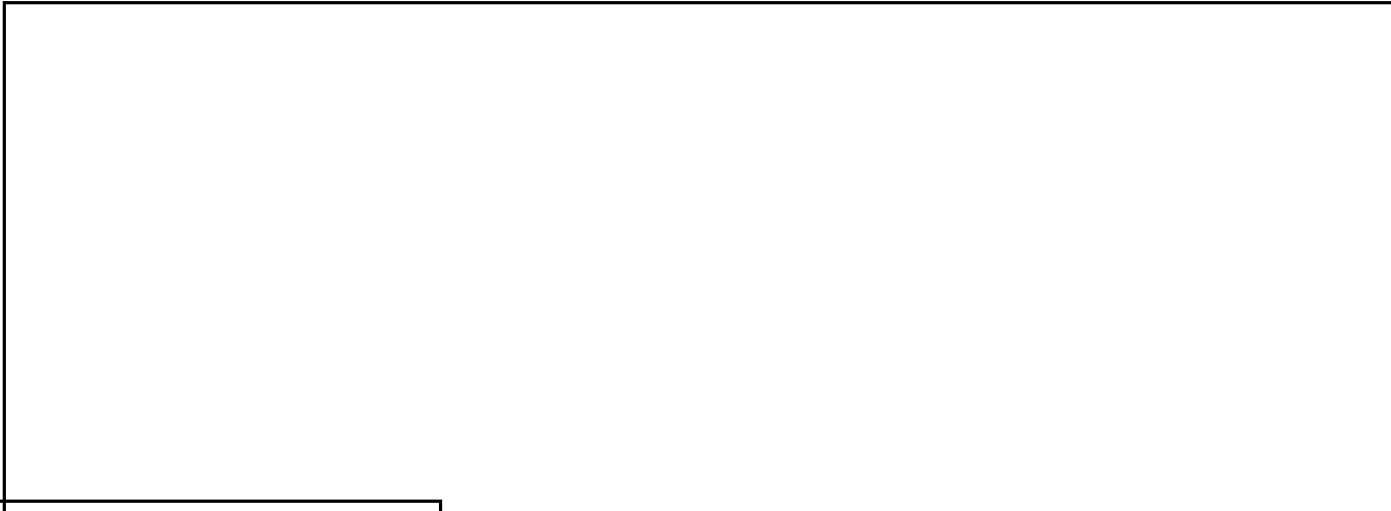
3. [redacted] Met with Robert Allnut, staff director, Senate Aeronautical and Space Sciences Committee, and, per arrangements made by [redacted] left a memorandum relating to the Soviet manned space effort with him. I advised him that the Agency courier would pick up the document later this afternoon. Allnut said these arrangements were satisfactory to him. [redacted] alerted the OCI couriers to pick up the document.

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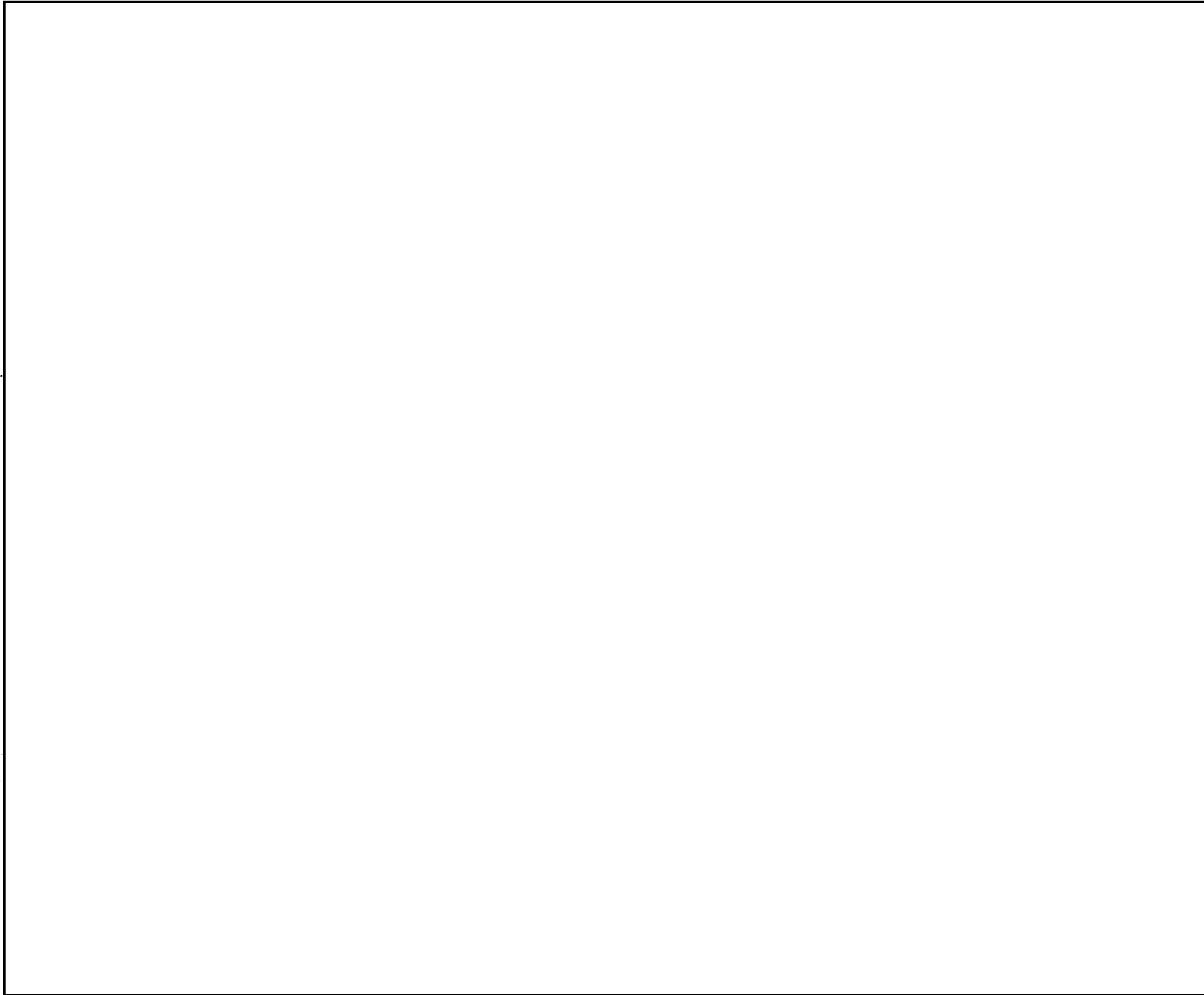
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6. [redacted] Received a call from Louise Greenfield on the staff of the Joint Economic Committee requesting a copy of a recent CIA publication, "~~The Soviet Economy~~: 1974 Results and 1975 Prospects." I told her there would be no problem getting a copy to the Committee and that I would deliver it within the next week.

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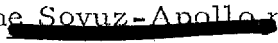
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13.  Accompanied Carl Duckett, DDS&T, to a briefing of the Subcommittee on HUD, Space, Science, Veterans of Senate Appropriations Committee on the subject of the ~~Sovuz-Apollo~~ mission. See  Memo for the Record. 25X1

