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SS# 9-01039

**GUIDED MISSILE INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE**

2 January 1959  
1645 EST

**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

**SUBJECT:** Vehicle Launching from Tyura Tam Missile Test Range

1. Culminating a rather smooth countdown, the Soviets launched a vehicle from the Tyura Tam Missile Test Range [redacted] 2 January 1959. We believe this was a space vehicle, and, from the time and date of launch it was most likely a lunar probe. It was at least partially successful in that it was airborne [redacted]

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[redacted] as late as four hours after launch the vehicle was still airborne and there are no indications that it is not.

2. At this time, lack of definitive information prevents our reaching a firm conclusion as to the success of the launching beyond its initial stages.

3. A probe can reasonably take up to four days to reach the vicinity of the moon but one and one-half to two days is more likely. It could take the Soviets many hours to determine the degree of success before any announcement could be made. In case of a failure to achieve some spectacular results no Soviet announcement is expected.

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[redacted]  
Chairman, GMIC

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| DD FORM 95 1 FEB 50 Replaces DA AGO Form 895, 1 Apr 48, and AFHQ Form 12, 10 Nov 47, which may be used. 658-16-74007-1 |  |                   |  |                                  |  |

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