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DDSS-2394

Executive Registry  
7-5073

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
THROUGH : Deputy Director/Intelligence *nah*  
Deputy Director/Support  
SUBJECT : CIA Financial Support for Earth Satellite Project

1. The program for development and launching of a small earth satellite vehicle was approved by NSC 5520.

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you indicated that CIA would render some financial support to the NSC 5520 project. It is believed that CIA support is justified for the following reasons:

a. The importance of this program in connection with psychological warfare. The announcement of the US program for launching an earth satellite as part of the International Geophysical Year has already caused favorable reactions abroad. It is essential that this initial success not be discounted by failure to actually launch a satellite within the time limit, or by permitting the Soviets to anticipate it with a launching of their own due to our failure to press ahead vigorously.

b. CIA has a long-term interest in the development of a true reconnaissance satellite, for which the vehicle contemplated by NSC 5520 would provide valuable data and experience. While the Defense Department would probably be delegated responsibility for the planning and launching of a

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reconnaissance satellite, CIA would be a principal user and beneficiary of the data collected by such means.

c. The satellite contemplated by NSC 5520 is to be utilized as part of the US support to the International Geophysical Year, in which the Soviets are also participating.

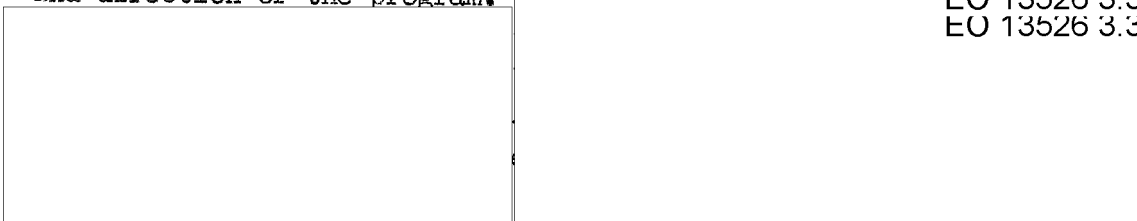
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d. From a national point of view, the launching of the satellite under the auspices of an international, cooperative scientific effort will enable progress to be made toward more sophisticated and instrumented satellites without necessarily involving a test of the principle of "Freedom of Space", the implications of which for the United States are as yet undetermined.

3. In the light of the CIA interests outlined above, it is believed that the CIA financial contribution to the earth satellite vehicle program should be of a magnitude which will permit the Agency to have a reasonable voice and influence in the development and direction of the program.

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EO 13526 3.5(c)

HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.  
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