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MEMORANDUM FOR THE DIRECTOR:

This memorandum is for the record.

Mark Childs in his conference with you today brought up three subjects:

(1) A friend of the President's, he said, who is also a friend of yours but who is not in CIA, gave Mr. Childs details of the Air Force's use of balloons which successfully mapped the Soviet Union. (2) At the time Bulganin was writing letters threatening to send rockets into England, our Air Force actually put SAC into the sky, so seriously was the threat taken. (3) Senator Russell in Georgia yesterday told Mr. Childs that he looked with disfavor upon any Congressional investigation into the subject of the Soviets' being first in orbiting an earth satellite. Childs declared that Senator Russell said that the CIA had kept the senior members of Congress completely informed of the Soviet progress in the rocket development and regarding their capability to orbit the Sputnik.

Regarding the first item, the reputed aerial photography of the Soviet Union by Air Force balloons, Childs wanted your opinion as to whether it would not now be a good time to make this public so as to counteract in some degree propaganda advantages the Soviet has because of its launching of the artificial satellite. Your response was that it might better not be publicized since we are now in the process of discussion as to what the rights of individual nations are regarding air space, how high their control extends, etc. You also remarked that there had been considerable publicity by the Soviet Union, by Hungary, and by Czechoslovakia at one time charging America with using balloons for mapping purposes, which they claimed was invasion of their

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territory but that no government official of the United States ever admitted such to be the fact, and about the only comment that you remembered in the American press was that these were meteorological balloons gathering weather data and some may have blown over Soviet satellite nations. You also stated that mapping by aerial photography from balloons is not an exact science and the subject gets into the whole problem of the "open skies" plan which the President proposed to the Soviet. Childs remarked that he would be guided by your veto of his making public this information. You stated with a laugh, in good humor, that you would not undertake to veto anything the press wants to do. Childs laughed also and said he understood but he would be guided by what you had said. The impression he left was definitely that he would not make public the story.

In his discussion on subject #2, rockets over England, he mentioned that he had talked with "two ambassadors" but he did not further elaborate as to his source of information.

As to the third comment, his conversation with Senator Russell, you told Childs that it is difficult even for the Russians to completely hide a major project of such large dimensions involving many people, as that included in the preparations for the rocket launching of a satellite; that CIA of course has been alert to the time and effort which the Soviets were devoting to such a project, and had added up the different factors as they developed and had kept some senior members of the Congress informed of the Soviet progress. You humorously stated that of course we did not tell them the launching would occur on a particular day or month. Childs again added that Mr. Russell certainly thought CIA had kept him fully informed of the Soviet progress.

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While en route to your office for the interview, Mark told me that there were reports that Bob Morris will resign as general counsel for the Internal Security Committee and he thought that this was something the press certainly should try to prevent

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Assistant to the Director

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