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5 JUL 1957

The Executive Secretariat  
The Deputy Secretary of Defense  
Washington 25, D. C.

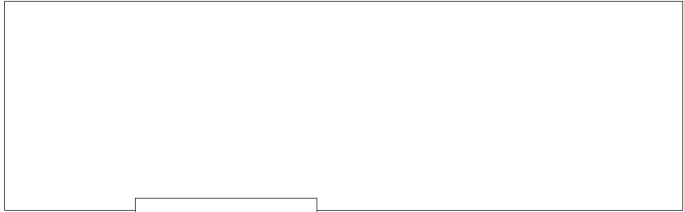
Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your memorandum of 30 June 1957, transmitting the letter to you from Dr. V. A. Babitskiy.

Information concerning the timing of the launching of the Soviet's first earth satellite is sketchy, and our people here do not believe that the evidence is sufficient to put forward a probability statement on when the Soviets may launch their first satellite.

However, [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs  
Babitskiy, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, stated that, "soon, literally in the next few weeks, the earth will get the second satellite." Other information, not so precise, indicates that the USSR probably is capable of launching a satellite in 1957, and may be making preparations to do so on 122 World Day or Special World Day. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

Dr. Babitskiy's presentation of 17 September 1957, presents an interesting consideration when we note that the public relations on frequent project and the first launching of the U. S. satellite in 1958, and the date 17 September 1957, would permit the Russians to achieve the objective of a first launching. Further, the Russians like to be dramatic and would not stress the birthday of Babitskiy to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one birthday anniversary of his birth. On the other hand, [redacted] EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs  
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