

EO 13526 3.3(b)(1)>25Yrs

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**MEMORANDUM FOR:** Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT:** Comments on letter of Dr. V. A. Bratschkoff

1. This memorandum is for information only.

2. Information concerning the status of launch of the Soviet first earth satellite is very sketchy.

Alexander Samoylov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, stated that "soon, literally in the next few months, the earth will get its 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 17th World Day or Special World Day.

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3. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

4. Regarding Dr. Bratschkoff's prediction, the statements of September 1957 fit the above statements and assessments very well for the following reasons:

a. The date falls within the next few months.

b. Public releases on the VENERA project launching its first satellite in 1958, if believed by the USSR, would not challenge their being first to do the job.

c. The Russian like to be dramatic and could well emphasize the birthday of Khrushchev to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one hundredth anniversary of his birth.

5. In opposition to the event occurring on 17 September 1957, this date is not an 17th World Day, and no day in September is designated. Special World Days are as yet undesignated.

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6. OSI does not believe the evidence to be sufficient to give any a probability statement on when the Soviets may/launch their first satellite.

EO 13526 3.5(c)

**HENRY SEVILL, JR.**  
Assistant Director  
Scientific Intelligence

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