LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
~~04~~	~~memo~~	~~Welsh to Fritsch, et.al.~~ open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~1~~	~~11/15/63~~	~~A~~
06	draft	Near duplicate of #7 & 9	C	2	11/15/63	A
07	draft	Near duplicate of #6 & 9	C	2	11/15/63	A
~~08~~	~~memo~~	~~NASC Meeting...~~ open 9/15/14	~~PCI~~	~~1~~	~~11/21/63~~	~~A~~
09	draft	"Guidelines for Interagency Handling..." [Near duplicate of #6 & 7]	C	2	11/15/63	A
10	draft	"Guidelines for Interagency Handling..."	C	3	[11/63]	A
~~12~~	~~memo~~	~~NASC Meeting...~~ open 9/15/14	~~PCI~~	~~1~~	~~11/6/63~~	~~A~~
~~18~~	~~memo~~	~~Welsh to McCone~~ open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~1~~	~~5/31/63~~	~~A~~
~~20a~~	~~rpt~~	~~"Guidelines for Interagency Handling..."~~ open 1/4/18 per RAC 12/17	~~C~~	~~2~~	~~[1963]~~	~~A~~
~~21~~	~~memo~~	~~C. Johnson to Parrott~~ [Duplicate of #25] open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~1~~	~~12/10/62~~	~~A~~

Collection Title National Security File, Files of Charles E. Johnson
Folder Title "Space Vehicle Fragments - Responsibilities and Procedures"

Box Number 018

Restriction Codes
(A) Closed by Executive Order 13292 governing access to national security information.
(B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
(C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

1/13/2009
Initials

LBJ LIBRARY DOCUMENT WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Doc #	DocType	Doc Info	Classification	Pages	Date	Restriction
~~23~~	~~memo~~	~~To ExSec, NASC~~ open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~1~~	~~12/7/62~~	~~A~~
~~25~~	~~memo~~	~~Duplicate of #21~~ open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~1~~	12/10/62	A
~~36c~~	draft	~~"Attachment B"~~ open 9/15/14	~~C~~	~~2~~	~~[10/62]~~	~~A~~

Collection Title National Security File, Files of Charles E. Johnson

Folder Title "Space Vehicle Fragments - Responsibilities and Procedures"

Box Number 018

Restriction Codes

(A) Closed by Executive Order 13292 governing access to national security information.
(B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
(C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

1/13/2009

Initials

1

NASA HEADQUARTERS ROUTING SLIP

	CODE	NAME *(if necessary)*		ACTION
				APPROVAL
1.		Charles Johnson		CONCURRENCE
				FILE
2.		National Security		INFORMATION
				INVESTIGATE AND ADVISE
3.		Council		NOTE AND FORWARD
				NOTE AND RETURN
4.				PER REQUEST
				RECOMMENDATION
5.				SEE ME
				SIGNATURE
6.				REPLY FOR SIGNATURE OF:
7.				

REMARKS:

Underlined sections have been added since the last draft.

Saturn AL
Contingency Guidance
Fragments

FROM:	CODE: AI	NAME: William F. Hausman	DATE: 5/26/64

NASA Form 26 (Rev. July 1959) U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1959 OF—513026

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AF 19

NASA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ File Frog.

AF

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

x

MANNED SPACECRAFT CENTER -- ATTN: DR. GILRUTH AND PAUL HANEY

MARSHALL SPACE FLIGHT CENTER -- ATTN: DR. VON BRAUN AND BART SLATTERY

NASA JOHN F. KENNEDY SPACE CENTER -- ATTN: DR. DEBUS, JOHN KING

UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE, THE FOLLOWING IS THE RESPONSE TO QUERIES ON POSSIBLE EARTH IMPACTS OF FRAGMENTS FROM ORBITING SA-6 BOOSTER. NO QUERIES HAVE BEEN RECEIVED AT THIS TIME. AFTER LAUNCH WE WILL GIVE TRACKING ELEMENTS FOR TWO TO TWELVE DAY ORBIT BUT NO IMPACT PREDICTION. NO INFORMATION IS BEING VOLUNTEERED. THIS HAS BEEN COORDINATED BY OUR INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS OFFICE WITH THE STATE DEPARTMENT. ALL ADDITIONAL RESPONSE OVER AND ABOVE THE FOLLOWING WILL BE ONLY BY THE ADMINISTRATOR, THE DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR OR THE ASSOCIATE ADMINISTRATOR. QUERIES REQUIRING SUCH ADDITIONAL RESPONSES SHOULD BE REFERRED TO THEM.

"A. ON SIZE OF FRAGMENTS: ACTUAL SIZE AND NUMBER OF FRAGMENTS CANNOT BE PREDICTED.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By chm/rg NARA, Date 1-8-09

1 3

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

"B. ON LOCATION OF IMPACT: SINCE THE VEHICLE BREAKS UP ON REENTRY, THERE IS NO BASIS FOR PREDICTING A SINGLE IMPACT POINT.

"C. PRIOR TO ANY IMPACT: THIS PROBLEM HAS BEEN VERY CAREFULLY STUDIED. THE POSSIBILITY OF A FRAGMENT FROM ANY SPACE VEHICLE ENDANGERING HUMAN LIFE OR PROPERTY IS QUITE REMOTE. ANY DISCUSSION OF SUCH AN IMPROBABLE INCIDENT WOULD BE HEAVILY CONJECTURAL.

"D. AFTER A REPORTED IMPACT: UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES DOES THIS AGENCY (GOVERNMENT) CONJECTURE ON THE ORIGIN OF AN OBJECT. RATHER, IT DESIRES TO OBTAIN, ANALYZE, AND ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH THE ORIGIN OF SUCH AN OBJECT.

"E. AFTER IT IS KNOWN THAT A FRAGMENT IS TO BE DELIVERED TO US: THE OBJECT WILL BE SUBJECTED TO

NASA

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

AF x

STUDY AND PROMPT PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE WHEN

ANALYSIS HAS BEEN COMPLETED."

JULIAN SCHEER
ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR
FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

cc:
AD/Dr. Dryden
AI/Mr. Frutkin
AA/Mr. Williamson
M/Dr. Mueller
MAO/Mr. Abernethy
AFP/Mr. Lloyd
M-N/Mr. Alibrando
A/Mr. Webb
AA/Dr. Seamans

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic
downgrading and declassification

3 3

Julian Scheer, Asst. Administrator for Public Affairs/ 35302

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

CONFIDENTIAL

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

file - Saturn launch

Background data.

December 16, 1963

DIARY NOTE

Subject: SA-5

1. NASA provides bimonthly launch briefings to the Department of State on all NASA launchings scheduled for the following two-month period.

2. The SA-5 launch was flagged at the briefing of October 23 because of the large weight expected to be put in orbit and re-enter. No objection was registered by the Department of State.

3. The following day, October 24, Mr. Frutkin called Dr. Golovin to recommend that Dr. Weisner be briefed on the SA-5. Golovin was to arrange a meeting for this purpose. A request for a briefing was received from Dr. Steininger of Dr. Weisner's staff on December 9, 1963, and he was briefing that day by Capt. Holcomb (NASA).

4. Prior to the initial briefing, NASA had taken two principal precautions to reduce the total weight of fragments that might return: (1) 13,000 lbs. of sand were substituted for the ballast originally programmed (lead and iron); (2) the Jupiter nose cone was roughed up so that it would burn up during reentry.

5. At Department of State request, a second briefing on SA-5 was held on November 27. No objections were registered to the launching by Dr. Rollefson or his associates.

6. The facts which were presented in the briefing for Dr. Rollefson (subsequently revised as in Paragraph 7) are:

(a) There is a 95% probability that 2,800 lbs. of material will return to earth, a 75% probability that 4,600 lbs. will return and a 50% chance that 10,200 lbs. will return. The 2,800 lbs. would probably take the form of 30 to 39 fragments, consisting of six engines, three Titanium spheres and approximately 30 electronics packages. The difference between 2,800 lbs. figure and the 4,600 lbs. figure is in the Jupiter nose cone.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By dcm/g, NARA, Date 1-8-09

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

(b) It was stated that fragments would probably impact over an area between 2,170 and 2,500 miles long by 100 miles wide.

(c) None of the aluminum skin material is expected to survive reentry. Interior parts should therefore be exposed to heating during reentry. (Most fragments collected to date have been stainless steel pieces of Atlas skin).

(d) If 30 fragments reenter the atmosphere, the probability of a casulty is estimated at .0000179. If 39 pieces reenter, the probability is .0000232, or one casulty per 50,000 flights. A fragment is considered capable of inflicting injury or death if it hits with more than 58 foot pounds of kinetic energy.

(e) The nominal but uncertain lifetime projected for the satellite is 148 days. The vehicle is to be launched on a heading of 105°, with a 345 nautical mile apogee, 141 nautical mile perigee, 31.60 inclination and a 93.9 minute period.

(f) NASA has investigated the possibility of destructing the satellite in orbit. This does not appear feasible since any destruct short of vaporization would simply create more fragments of a lethal nature and increase the probabilities of a casualty. In order to vaporize the satellite, a nuclear charge would be required.

(g) At the current stage of engineering, it is not possible to provide retro-rocket and orientation systems to deorbit the satellite in open water. Some 18 months might be required for this and the solution would <u>not</u> be applicable to future required GEMINI missions.

(h) If the 13,000 lbs. of sand are subtracted, it is estimated that the vehicle will be of the approximate weight and size of Soviet vehicles which have already decayed. It is not known whether the Soviets have taken any precautions regarding fragments.

(i) A tracking beacon with a 45-day life has been placed on board the satellite to assist in monitoring it as closely as possible.

(j) It has been estimated that the reentry prospects here are not greatly different from Atlas reentries in which about 2,000 lbs. per flight are believed to have returned to earth.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

7. Revised Information

Since the November 27 briefing, the following revised data has been provided: 95% probability 2,361 lbs. will return; 50% probability 3,000 lbs. will return.

8. Based on data provided through Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, it has been estimated that in one year, 310 meteorite impacts occur in Africa (approximately 11,000,000 square kilometers); i.e., 10 times as many objects as are involved in SA-5 reentry fall in Africa alone in one year. To date there has been no substantiated report of a personnel casualty resulting from these impacts.

James R. Morrison
Office of
International Programs

cc: Mr. C. Johnson, White House

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

☆ U. S. Government Printing Office: 1963-679663

FROM

William F. Hausman
NASA Hq./Code AI

TO

Charles Johnson
NSCouncil

CLASSIFICATION	SUSPENSE DATE	POST OFFICE REGISTRY NO.
Secret		

DESCRIPTION (MUST BE UNCLASSIFIED)

Response to Queries re: Fragments

ENCLOSURES

REMARKS

cy Webb, Dyrden, Seamans, NASA
Packard, State
Johnson, NSC
AWFrutkin, AI

☐ REPLY NECESSARY | DATE ANSWERED | BY | ☐ NO REPLY NECESSARY

DATE OF DOCUMENT	DATE RECEIVED	NO.
April 8, 1964		AI-15 3
CHECK WHETHER ☐ ACTION COPY ☐ INFO. COPY	ACTION COPY TO	A-7-7

INFORMATION COPY TO →

CLASSIFIED MATERIAL → | DESTROYED (DATE AND NO.) | NUMBER OF COPIES

REFERRED TO	REC'D. BY	DATE	REFERRED TO	REC'D BY	DATE
CEJ	[signature]	5/27/64			

NASA MAIL CONTROL

FORM NASA 416A (JUNE 1959)

(PLACE NASA CONTROL FORMS HERE)

3a

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By cbm/ly NARA, Date 1-8-09

This sheet and NASA Control Forms must be attached to Secret material while in the custody of NASA Headquarters.

SECRET

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

The attachment contains information affecting the National Defense of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, Title 18, U.S.C., Secs. 793 and 794, the transmission or revelation of which in any manner to an unauthorized person is prohibited by law.

~~SECRET~~

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified

36

RESPONSE TO QUERY

April 8, 1964

RE: Queries on Fragment Return from NASA Spacecraft or Space Vehicles

A much abbreviated guideline for RTQ has been provided by Mr. Scheer to various NASA officials who might be queried on this subject. The following more extensive responses are provided as background information to be used by the Administrator, Deputy Administrator, or Associate Administrator of NASA, in their judgment, in event of queries on the return of space vehicle fragments to the earth. It is suggested that the minimum information be used to satisfy a given query.

(A) FOR USE PRIOR TO AND AFTER A PARTICULAR LAUNCH BUT BEFORE ANY KNOWN IMPACT OF RETURNING FRAGMENTS:

1. Do fragments from (satellite X) pose a threat to life or property?

The probability that fragments from (satellite X) may cause damage or injury is remote. The probability of injury from natural meteorites is far greater.

2. a. What is the probability of impact?

There are many factors (e.g., time in orbit, atmospheric conditions, how the vehicle breaks up, dispersal pattern, etc.) involved and the calculations are extremely complex. We have assured ourselves, however, that the hazard is far less than many hazards encountered in everyday living.

b. What is the numerical probability that NASA has placed on this?

In the case of SA-5, it is one in 50,000 launches.
In the case of GT-1, it is one in 27,500 launches.

3. Has NASA taken steps to lessen the fragment problem?

Yes. NASA is actively engaged in minimizing it. For example, on the SA-5 satellite, NASA used 13,000 lbs. of harmless sand as ballast and roughed up the nosecone so that it would burn on reentry. On the GT-1 spacecraft, NASA bored large holes in the heat shield to assist burning during reentry. In addition to specific steps such as these, studies are underway to assist NASA in further coping with the overall reentry problem.

"This document consists of 3 pages, No. 1 of 6 copies, Series A."

ANY INFORMATION IN THIS DOCUMENT USED IN RESPONSE TO QUERIES IS AUTOMATICALLY DECLASSIFIED.

~~SECRET~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By chm/sy NARA, Date 1-8-09

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year intervals; not automatically declassified

deletions per Mr. Heuerman ltr 5/27/04

1819

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not automatically
declassified

4. How many fragments may be expected to survive

From SA-5 - About 30
From GT-1 - About 55

5. If any fragments come down, where are they most likely to impact?

The small number of fragments surviving from any satellite will be dispersed over an area of thousands of square miles, most of which are likely to be oceans, seas, or other water surface.

6. Can the fragment problem be further decreased by exploding the orbiting element?

Explosion or destruct of the orbiting element could produce more fragments and, hence, increase the possibility of fragment impact.

7. If one were to be hit by a fragment, would it be lethal?

In the remote possibility that one were to be struck by a fragment, it might, depending upon area of body struck, be lethal. However, this is also true of being struck by a meteorite, and the possibility of being struck by a meteorite is greater than the possibility of being struck by a fragment from (satellite X). In fact, based on data provided through the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, the average number of meteorites over 2.2 lbs. which impact on the earth every year is estimated at 5628. This is many, many times greater than the total number of fragments to be expected from (satellite X). And, to date, there are no substantiated reports of injury from these meteorite impacts.

8. Meteorites are natural phenomena. Do you consider NASA justified in increasing the possibilities of a lethal impact, no matter how improbable?

Many human activities carry with them a demonstrable probability of casualty--flying, automobile driving, golfing during an electrical storm. But we do not stop driving, flying or golfing.

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not automatically
declassified

GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not automatically
declassified

9. Will this sort of thing be a continuing hazard?

In some degree, yes. In time, it should become possible to develop some solutions such as ensured return over water, but these will take a great deal of research and development as well as significant payload margin. It is a matter of constant attention.

10. How do reentry problems with GT-1 compare with those of other rockets?

Very roughly, about the same as with Atlas reentries, from which there have been no casualties.

SECRET
GROUP 3
Downgraded at 12 year
intervals; not automatically

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 15, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO:

Dr. Arnold Fritsch	(AEC)
Mr. Albert D. Wheelon	(CIA)
Dr. Albert C. Hall	(DOD)
Mr. Arnold Frutkin	(NASA)
Mr. Charles Johnson	(NSC) ✓
Dr. Nicholas Golovin	(OST)
Mr. Robert Packard	(State)

Subject: Fragments

The meeting on November 6 was informative. At the close of that session, I promised to weigh various suggestions and come up with a draft paper for joint consideration. Such a paper is attached. I would doubt that everyone's interests are completely satisfied with this language, but it is hoped that it comprises a reasonable basis for agreement. In any event, I would appreciate your evaluating it and preparing yourselves to indicate what portions are satisfactory and what portions need improvement.

A meeting to discuss this language and related issues is scheduled for November 21, 10 o'clock, in Room 213 Executive Office Building. Please advise my office in advance who will attend for your respective agencies.

E. C. Welsh

Classified attachment (2 cys)

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ 030R.018.001/1
By JR NARA. Date 8-21-14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Upon removal of attachments this document becomes unclassified.

DATE DUE POST

5

Hot Rocket to
Nowhere

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL

Interagency Meeting on Space Vehicle Fragments
Thursday, November 21, 1963 - 10:00 a. m.

Room 213 - E. O. B.

CHAIRMAN:	Dr. E. C. Welsh
AEC:	Dr. John Pomeroy ~~Mr. C. L. Henderson~~
CIA:	Mr. Huntington Sheldon Mr. Carl Duckett
DEFENSE:	Dr. Albert C. Hall
NASA:	~~Mr. Arnold Frutkin~~ Colonel William F. Hausman
NSC:	Mr. Charles Johnson
OST:	~~Dr. Nicholas Golovin~~ Dr. Donald H. Steininger
STATE:	Mr. Robert Packard Mr. C. E. Dillery
NASC:	Mr. Richard Hirsch Mr. Russell W. Hale Dr. Charles S. Sheldon

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ. 030R.018.001/2
By JC NARA. Date 8-21-14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Draft of Nov. 6, 1962
Revised by DOD 3/1/63

[ ] - material deleted
Underlining - material added

GUIDELINES FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving, [analyzing] and identifying [any] fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession, except that the Department of Defense (DOD) is solely responsible for receiving and identifying fragments from vehicles launched by the DOD.

[2. NASA will turn over to the Department of Defense (DOD) as expeditiously as possible fragments which are readily identifiable as coming from space vehicles launched by the DOD.]

2. In the event NASA should come into possession of space fragments under the sole and exclusive responsibility of the DOD, NASA will deliver such fragments as expeditiously as possible to the DOD.

3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA and other U. S. Government agencies will [give] deliver to the DOD [and other responsible agencies access] as expeditously as possible and on a priority basis fragments (including whole vehicles) which are readily identifiable or suspect as coming from [space] vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such foreign fragments which come initially into possession of the DOD will be retained by DOD for analysis. Such analysis of foreign fragments will be completed expeditiously, and thereafter such fragments will [remain] be placed in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.

5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By dm/g, NARA, Date 1-8-09

6. The DOD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DOD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.

7. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) will participate in the analysis of fragments of space vehicles which have utilized or transported, or are suspected of having utilized or transported, radioactive materials or special nuclear materials, and will exercise responsibility for special nuclear materials, in accordance with its statutory responsibility. In addition, the AEC will continue to make available to NASA and the DOD its special scientific capabilities.

8. The Department of State will provide policy guidance with respect to the final disposition of fragments from vehicles launched by foreign countries, or made available to the United States by foreign countries. The Department of State will provide assistance in the acquisition of fragments that fall on foreign territory.

9. NASA will serve as the focal point for the coordination and release of public information on fragments except for release of public information on fragments resulting from space vehicles launched by the DOD, which will be the responsibility of DOD.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL

Interagency Meeting on Space Vehicle Fragments
Wednesday, November 6, 1963 - 10:00 a. m.
Room 213 - E. O. B.

CHAIRMAN:	Dr. E. C. Welsh ✓
AEC:	Dr. Arnold Fritsch ✓
CIA:	Mr. Albert D. Wheelon ✓ Mr. Carl Duckett ✓
DEFENSE:	Dr. Albert C. Hall, DDR&E ✓
NASA:	Mr. Arnold Frutkin ✓ Colonel William F. Hausman ✓
NSC:	Mr. Charles Johnson ✓
OST:	Dr. Nicholas Golovin Dr. Donald H. Steininger ✓
STATE:	Mr. Robert Pachard Mr. C. E. Dillery ✓
NASC:	Mr. Richard Hirsch ✓ Mr. Russell W. Halo ✓

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ.030R.018.001/5
By JS NARA. Date 8.21.14

DRAFT
November 6, 1962

PUBLIC STATEMENT ON HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is designated as the Government agency responsible for receiving [analyzing], and identifying [any] fragments or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession.

Fragments identified as coming from vehicles launched by foreign countries will be retained by NASA pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

In performing these functions, NASA will coordinate fully with other Government agencies.

Delete bracketed words to conform to DOD revisions of paper dated March 1, 1963.

Did USIB take any final action at or since their December meeting?

15

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

October 24, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO:

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, CIA

Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Honorable Jerome B. Wiesner
Director, OST

Honorable James E. Webb
Administrator, NASA

✓Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President

Subject: Responsibility and Procedure re Space Vehicle Fragments

Subject matter has in the past been discussed with representatives of interested agencies. Draft language was circulated and agreement was initially obtained. Subsequently, some variations in preferred language developed.

In response to inquiry from Chairman Miller of the House Science and Astronautics Committee regarding legislation introduced on this subject, the Administrator of NASA responded that he did not believe such legislation was needed at this time, as the question of responsibility for receiving, analyzing, and identifying fragments and suspected fragments was being considered within the Executive Branch. This consideration was presumably a reference to the meetings and drafts developed under our auspices.

CGT
to Lundahl

There has been more than sufficient time elapsed since this matter was first examined for the interested agencies to agree upon a responsible position. Consequently, I am calling a meeting to examine this subject on November 6 at 10 o'clock in Room 213 of the Executive Office Building. It would be appreciated if you would identify representation for your agency at such a session. When you have done so, it would be appreciated if my office were notified as to the person or persons who expect to attend.

E. C. Welsh

1221

16

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

October 24, 1963

MEMORANDUM TO:

Honorable Dean Rusk
Secretary of State

Honorable John A. McCone
Director, CIA

Honorable Roswell L. Gilpatric
Deputy Secretary of Defense

Honorable Jerome B. Wiesner
Director, OST

Honorable James E. Webb
Administrator, NASA

Honorable McGeorge Bundy
Special Assistant to the President

Subject: Responsibility and Procedure re Space Vehicle Fragments

Subject matter has in the past been discussed with representatives of interested agencies. Draft language was circulated and agreement was initially obtained. Subsequently, some variations in preferred language developed.

In response to inquiry from Chairman Miller of the House Science and Astronautics Committee regarding legislation introduced on this subject, the Administrator of NASA responded that he did not believe such legislation was needed at this time, as the question of responsibility for receiving, analyzing, and identifying fragments and suspected fragments was being considered within the Executive Branch. This consideration was presumably a reference to the meetings and drafts developed under our auspices.

There has been more than sufficient time elapsed since this matter was first examined for the interested agencies to agree upon a responsible position. Consequently, I am calling a meeting to examine this subject on November 6 at 10 o'clock in Room 213 of the Executive Office Building. It would be appreciated if you would identify representation for your agency at such a session. When you have done so, it would be appreciated if my office were notified as to the person or persons who expect to attend.

E. C. Welsh

1221

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON 25, D.C.

IN REPLY REFER TO:

Space Council

Dr. Edward Welsh
Executive Secretary
National Aeronautics and
Space Council
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Ed:

Following our discussion of last Thursday, I have reviewed the draft on handling of fragments and greatly simplified our comments, although it was not possible to eliminate them all. The following comments are made:

1. NASA has no objection to deleting the word "analyzing" in paragraph one, line two, with the clear understanding that fragment identification may in fact require laboratory analysis.

2. In paragraph three, the words "and other US government agencies" and "Such foreign fragments which come initially into possession of DOD will be retained by DOD for analysis." should be deleted since they are inconsistent with the statement in paragraph one that "(NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving and identifying fragments" with the exception of fragments from DOD vehicles.

3. Paragraph five has been deleted since it pertains exclusively to internal NASA matters.

Sincerely yours,

Arnold W. Frutkin
Director, Office of
International Programs

PRESERVATION COPY

CONFIDENTIAL

Fragments

May 31, 1963

MEMORANDUM FOR

Honorable John A. McCone
Director of Central Intelligence
Chairman USIBoard

Subject: Discovered Fragments of Space Vehicles

This office was asked some time ago to coordinate the preparation of a public announcement and an internal (classified) document to fix responsibilities and to outline procedures regarding the subject matter. To this end, my memorandum to Lt. General Carter, dated November 28, 1962, provided draft documents and set forth the status of the project at that time.

On March 1, a revised classified internal paper (Tab A), which has had top-level Defense clearance was provided, but we now understand it has not been coordinated within the intelligence community.

It is requested that the draft paper Tab A--the internal procedural paper--be given consideration. We were advised by General Carter, under date of December 7, 1962, that the matter would be given prompt USIB attention. Considerable time has now elapsed, and it would be deeply appreciated if we could obtain a favorable reply on this matter.

E. C. Welsh

ECW/mq

Enclosure (as Tab A) Defense Draft of
March 1/63 "Guidelines for Interagency
Handling of Space Vehicle Fragments" (Classified Confidential)

PRESERVATION COPY

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ.030R.018.001/6
By jc NARA. Date 8-21-14

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GUIDELINES FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving and identifying fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession, except that the Department of Defense (DoD) is solely responsible for receiving and identifying fragments from vehicles launched by the DoD.

2. In the event NASA should come into possession of space fragments under the sole and exclusive responsibility of the DoD, NASA will deliver such fragments as expeditiously as possible to the DoD.

3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA and other U.S. Government agencies will deliver to the DoD as expeditiously as possible and on a priority basis fragments (including whole vehicles) which are readily identifiable or suspect as coming from vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such foreign fragments which come initially into possession of the DoD will be retained by DoD for analysis. Such analysis of foreign fragments will be completed expeditiously, and thereafter such fragments will be placed in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.

5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.

6. The DoD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DoD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By chm/rg NARA, Date 1-8-09

7. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) will participate in the analysis of fragments of space vehicles which have utilized or transported, or are suspected of having utilized or transported, radioactive materials or special nuclear materials, and will exercise responsibility for special nuclear materials, in accordance with its statutory responsibility. In addition, the AEC will continue to make available to NASA and the DoD its special scientific capabilities.

8. The Department of State will provide policy guidance with respect to the final disposition of fragments from vehicles launched by foreign countries, or made available to the United States by foreign countries. The Department of State will provide assistance in the acquisition of fragments that fall on foreign territory.

9. NASA will serve as the focal point for the coordination and release of public information on fragments except for release of public information on fragments resulting from space vehicles launched by the DoD, which will be the responsibility of DoD.

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL

20

March 4, 1963

To: Charles Johnson

This is the paper to which I referred on the phone.

E. C. Welsh

369

GUIDELINES FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving and identifying fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession, except that the Department of Defense (DoD) is solely responsible for receiving and identifying fragments from vehicles launched by the DoD.

2. In the event NASA should come into possession of space fragments under the sole and exclusive responsibility of the DoD, NASA will deliver such fragments as expeditiously as possible to the DoD.

3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA and other U.S. Government agencies will deliver to the DoD as expeditiously as possible and on a priority basis fragments (including whole vehicles) which are readily identifiable or suspect as coming from vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such foreign fragments which come initially into possession of the DoD will be retained by DoD for analysis. Such analysis of foreign fragments will be completed expeditiously, and thereafter such fragments will be placed in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.

5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ-030R-18-1-TF
By CTS NARA, Date 12/20/17

PRESERVATION COPY

6. The DoD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DoD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.

7. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) will participate in the analysis of fragments of space vehicles which have utilized or transported, or are suspected of having utilized or transported, radioactive materials or special nuclear materials, and will exercise responsibility for special nuclear materials, in accordance with its statutory responsibility. In addition, the AEC will continue to make available to NASA and the DoD its special scientific capabilities.

8. The Department of State will provide policy guidance with respect to the final disposition of fragments from vehicles launched by foreign countries, or made available to the United States by foreign countries. The Department of State will provide assistance in the acquisition of fragments that fall on foreign territory.

9. NASA will serve as the focal point for the coordination and release of public information on fragments except for release of public information on fragments resulting from space vehicles launched by the DoD, which will be the responsibility of DoD.

file

December 10, 1962

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR: Mr. Thomas Parrott

Tom--

You should know about the attached documents and the small hassel between DOD and CIA concerning the procedural guidelines paper. As I understand it, the departmental representatives that worked with Ed Welsh had secured departmental clearances on the procedure but later on the Agency clearance somehow got unstuck.

At this point there is no White House intervention that is either desirable or needed but, on the other hand, there is no guarantee that this could not become a White House issue on strictly jurisdictional grounds. As far as I am concerned it is a "tempest in a tea cup" that would have been avoided entirely if the Space Council would have brought the Agency into the ad hoc committee from the beginning.

Please return the papers when you have seen them.

Charles E. Johnson

Attachment:

1. Dec. 7, 1962 Memo to NASC fr CIA
2. Draft 11/6/62 Guidelines for Inter-agency Handling of Space Vehicle Fragments.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ.030R.018.001/8
By JS NARA. Date 8.21-14

Mr. Johnson

Chuck -

Agree with your remarks. Thanks for letting me see.

Gap /

See attached note.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

23

file

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON 25, D. C.

OFFICE OF DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE

7 DEC 1962

MEMORANDUM FOR EXECUTIVE SECRETARY, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE COUNCIL

SUBJECT: Interagency Handling of Space Vehicle Fragments

I should like to acknowledge with appreciation your 28 November memorandum requesting consideration by the Central Intelligence Agency of the draft documents containing "guidelines" and a "Public Statement" on the subject.

Review of these documents has clearly indicated that the interagency handling of space vehicle fragments is of interest and concern to the United States intelligence community.

Accordingly, this matter has been placed before the United States Intelligence Board (USIB) to develop promptly its coordinated views on the subject documents. USIB action is scheduled for its 12 December meeting, following which the Board's views will be transmitted to you.

(Signed) Marshall S. Carter

MARSHALL S. CARTER
Lieutenant General, USA
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

cc: Executive Secretary, NSC

RECEIVED
N.S.C.
DEC 10 9 27 AM '62

DECLASSIFIED
Authority NLJ.030R.018.001/9
By JR NARA. Date 8-21-14

96

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

GROUP 1
Excluded from automatic downgrading and declassification

EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL
WASHINGTON

~~Hold in pending~~ "

file

24

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

November 6, 1962

Mr. Johnson:

Herewith are the draft papers as revised and agreed to at today's meeting. Copies have been sent to interested agency heads for formal concurrence.

E. C. Welsh

2 Enclosures - Fragments
1. (Unclassified)
2. (Confidential - 2 pages)

DRAFT
11/6/62

PUBLIC STATEMENT
ON HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is designated as the Government agency responsible for receiving, analyzing, and identifying any fragments or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession.

Fragments identified as coming from vehicles launched by foreign countries will be retained by NASA pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

In performing these functions, NASA will coordinate fully with other Government agencies.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DRAFT
11/6/62

GUIDELINES
FOR INTERAGENCY HANDLING OF SPACE VEHICLE FRAGMENTS

1. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) is designated as the agency responsible for receiving, analyzing, and identifying any fragments, or suspected fragments of space vehicles of all types, including the contents thereof, which fall upon the territory of the United States or which otherwise come into its possession.

2. NASA will turn over to the Department of Defense (DOD) as expeditiously as possible fragments which are readily identifiable as coming from space vehicles launched by the DOD.

3. To insure prompt analysis for intelligence purposes, NASA will give the DOD and other responsible agencies access, as expeditiously as possible, to fragments which are readily identifiable as coming from space vehicles launched from foreign countries. Such analysis will be completed expeditiously and thereafter such fragments will remain in the custody of NASA, pending final arrangements for their return to the launching country or for other appropriate disposition.

4. All other fragments will be retained by NASA pending agreement as to disposition.

5. NASA may continue to use the Smithsonian Institution for collection and analysis of fragments by contractual arrangements, and may also make appropriate arrangements for assistance with private agencies.

6. The DOD will notify NASA when deorbits are expected and when collection teams have been alerted to obtain the deorbiting fragments. Also, DOD will inform NASA of the results of such collection efforts whether successful or not.

7. The Atomic Energy Commission (AEC) will participate in the analysis of fragments of space vehicles which have utilized or transported, or are suspected of having utilized or transported, radioactive materials or special nuclear materials, and will exercise responsibility for special nuclear materials, in accordance with its statutory responsibility. In addition, the AEC will continue to make available to NASA and the DOD its special scientific capabilities.

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED
E.O. 13292, Sec. 3.4
By dm/g, NARA, Date 1-8-09