

(The information requested is as follows:)

In considering a preliminary version of a proposed Department of Defense Directive relating to "space" the staff of the Office of Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) took into consideration the fact that the proposed new Directive would provide a general statement of policy representing an additional step in the evolution of appropriate arrangements for managing the Department of Defense "space" programs. This evolutionary process was started immediately following the initial concern resulting from the first Russian satellite placed in orbit. At that time the primary U.S. satellite effort involved Project Vanguard conducted by the Department of the Navy as an element of the International Geophysical Year program and the Air Force was working on other projects such as the Weapon System 117L. (Reconnaissance Satellite.)

It was then recognized that management of the Department of Defense "space" programs should be consolidated to the extent possible pending the development of national policy with respect to the investigation, utilization and exploitation of the space environment. As a result of these considerations the Advanced Research Projects Agency (ARPA) was established and most of the then current Department of Defense programs directly relating to "space" were assigned to ARPA. During the same period the preliminary aspects of certain non-military "space" programs were initiated through ARPA, with the approval of the President, prior to the establishment of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). When NASA was later established these non-military "space" programs were transferred to NASA. ARPA continued to be responsible for managing and directing the major portion of the Department of Defense "space" program, utilizing the facilities and capabilities of the military departments and contractors for the actual conduct of the programs. The existence of ARPA provided the Secretary of Defense with a management mechanism to minimize duplication and over-lapping of "space" projects within the Department of Defense during the development of more finalized plans and objectives for "space" programs. As decisions could be reached and as developments approached the operational stage, various projects have been assigned by the Secretary of Defense to the Army, Navy or Air Force, as appropriate. Where applicable both program responsibility and funds have been transferred from ARPA. The Congress recognized the need for such adjustments and reassignments in the language included for the appropriation, Salaries and Expenses, Advanced Research Projects Agency, Department of Defense.

During the early part of this year the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Comptroller) was in the process of identifying and summarizing current data for the various "space" and "space related" programs of the Department of Defense. These programs and projects vary all the way from large development projects, such as Samos and Midas, down to the relatively small basic and applied research type projects which are many in number. A tentative preliminary summary, dated March 6, 1961, classified SECRET, is attached which will indicate to the committee the programs which were under consideration on March 2, 1961. The identification and review of "space" and "space related" projects is still in process in cooperation with the staff of the Director of Defense Research and Engineering, and the initial phase is expected to be completed in the near future.

The March 2, 1961, comments on a preliminary version of the proposed DOD Directive relating to "space" were developed within the context of the evolution discussed above. Specific line items were not, at the time, singled out for specific comment since the proposed Directive of itself did not transfer or reassign responsibility for any specific programs or projects. However, these projects have been under continuing review as a matter of normal practice. The staff did point out that the proposed Directive, as an additional step in the evolution of more effective management devices within the Department of Defense would bring the "space" projects under even closer scrutiny and more fine grained control of the Secretary of Defense, so that even more effective utilization of DOD resources, including funds, could be expected along the following lines:

(a) By further restricting the independent freedom of action of the three military departments to initiate research and development projects without prior approval of the Secretary, it is far less likely that new projects which could grow up to be inter-Service competitions with the same general objectives will be initiated.