

General SCHRIEVER. It certainly does. It places in one command the total responsibility for the development, the test, and the procurement and delivery to the operational command of a system that will perform in accordance with the characteristics that have been laid down and with a reasonable degree of reliability. So one organization will have the responsibility and the authority for carrying out the program to that point.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think that that will give the space program more impetus?

General SCHRIEVER. Mr. Brooks, I think from a management standpoint that this is a very good move. We have been studying for some time ways and means of improving management within the Air Force for weapons systems—what we call weapons system acquisition, or system acquisition. And this particular reorganization that is taking place now didn't just come out of thin air. It has been an evolutionary study. We have been at it for some time, and I personally think that it will do much to streamline and place responsibility in one place. This will, in my opinion, get the job done better, more efficiently and faster.

The CHAIRMAN. I would like to ask your comments on the national booster program, how your new responsibilities will work in reference to that, and whether or not it is the view of your office that you should support the NASA program in trying to get a national booster.

General SCHRIEVER. Actually, the new command will not change that because the booster program, that is the military booster program, has been the responsibility of the Air Research and Development Command. We have not had any systems, as such, tied to the boosters. That is, boosters in the sense that you are talking about. So there is no change. We have been working very closely with NASA on the national booster program—what you might call that.

The CHAIRMAN. I borrowed that phrase from the Wiesner report to the President, where they recommended a national booster program.

General SCHRIEVER. I think there is no doubt there should be a national booster program. There will undoubtedly be certain elements carried out by the military and certain elements by NASA. It should be a coordinated program and I think we have essentially that now but, of course, as we go down the line certainly new requirements for boosters will arise and we should continue to be very watchful that we do have a fully coordinated program between NASA and the military. I think we have that essentially today.

The CHAIRMAN. As you envision the future, do you envision the need for the peacetime agency in the development of space—for instance, peacetime communications in space and peacetime navigation, for instance, to assist the merchant marine on the high seas and also of weather reporting there, and at the same time the need, of course, for a military development of space? Do you envision that?

General SCHRIEVER. Yes, sir. I envision it even more broadly than that, Mr. Chairman. We are just in the infancy of development of systems in space. As I see it, going down the line, timewise, we are at that point where we should look at it in the broadest possible context. There will be military requirements and the military will be developing in space. We will have a Government agency such as NASA carrying on developments in space. I think private enterprise will get into space developments.