

I assume the other Service Secretaries did the same and that others within the Defense Department whose duty it was to comment and to advise the Secretary of Defense also voiced their opinion.

The decision has been made and the Navy, as it always has done and always will do, will cooperate with that decision to the utmost of its ability.

When I had an opportunity to address myself to studying the document, I felt some concern about it for several reasons.

First, I thought in the scientific world the Navy inhouse research capabilities were and are generally recognized to be the finest in the world. I did not think we would get any substantial argument from anyone about the capabilities of the Navy's scientists to do an outstanding job for our Government. I thought that this ability and think this ability was and is unequalled in the Government or in industry.

Based on that feeling, which was a very strong conviction, I was concerned that if this directive were approved it might tend to cause the Navy to lose its scientists to other pursuits. I thought that it was imperative that we maintain these inhouse scientists and experts and that we maintain the abilities and capabilities within Navy research programs that we have had for so long in order to do a job not only for the Navy but for all the Defense Department and for this Nation as a whole. Many of the programs concerning space which are now in existence are largely derivatives from research that the Navy has performed in the past years. I was extremely interested in seeing that these scientists, who have spent their lives in dedicated effort, were constantly encouraged to continue that work and that they not receive any impression that their efforts, their imagination, or abilities would be stifled or hamstrung.

I did not believe and I do not believe today that there is any such intention on the part of the Secretary of Defense to do so.

With these thoughts in mind, I had the opportunity on the morning after this directive was issued to talk to Secretary McNamara at some length about my feelings. We went over this matter thoroughly. I expressed my feelings in detail and he then assured me that he agreed with me that the Navy research capabilities in our laboratories were the finest in the Government. He assured me that it was his intention to continue to use these services and that the last thing anyone would want to do was to stifle their activities. He further assured me that the Navy would be given an opportunity to continue working on space programs in which we are interested, and that if this directive did not result in the requirements of the Navy being met, then, under the directive, exceptions would be made in order that the Navy might itself pursue these activities.

Or even if necessary, the directive might be altered to assure that the Navy keeps the abilities and capabilities to perform its naval missions. As you all know, there are many elements of space with which we are vitally concerned.

In years past, we have found that we could vastly increase our naval capabilities by exploiting the three dimensional regions lying beneath and above the surface of the seas.

Today the scene of naval operations reaches down to the ocean floor and up to the limits of the upper atmosphere.