

one of the most important aspects of this flight was the openness with which it was conducted.

Dr. SIMPSON. Thank you, sir.

Mr. Moss. I think it quite clear that we have enhanced our prestige tremendously, because the whole world had the opportunity of viewing our activities, in very sharp contrast to the policy of the Russian Government. No one doubts that we did what we claimed to have done.

Now we would like to hear from you, and have your statement.

STATEMENT OF DR. GEORGE L. SIMPSON, JR., ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR TECHNOLOGY UTILIZATION AND POLICY PLANNING, NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION; ACCOMPANIED BY H. R. BROCKETT, DIRECTOR, NETWORK OPERATIONS AND FACILITIES; AND MELVIN S. DAY, DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL INFORMATION

Dr. SIMPSON. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, for your remarks.

I would like particularly to say that my colleagues should have heard this too.

Mr. Chairman and members of the subcommittee, my name is George L. Simpson, Jr. I am Assistant Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration for Technology Utilization and Policy Planning. I am here at the invitation of the committee to discuss NASA's responsibilities with respect to the satellite situation report and related procedures and reports.

SATELLITE SITUATION REPORT

The satellite situation report is an unclassified document issued by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration through its Space Operations Control Center, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md. It includes all of the data available to NASA on objects in earth orbit as of the date set in each such report. Every issue lists the objects in orbit giving the international designation, code names when available, the launch date, the orbital characteristics, and certain of the transmitting frequencies (some of the objects in orbit are burned out rocket bodies, etc. which do not transmit).

Every fifth issue has carried a listing of the things that have decayed since the last listing of decayed objects. Here is a copy of the latest issuance dated May 15, 1963: I submit it for the record. These reports reflect data computed and compiled by NASA, NORAD (North American Air Defense Command), a military agency of the United States and Canada, and the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory.

The report is designed as an informational service to the public and especially to the scientific community. It is mailed to about 1,700 addressees and is made available to anyone who requests it.

NASA did not originate the report. As I understand it, prior to 1961 the Department of Defense under the project name "Space Track," had experimented with techniques for keeping track of objects