

NEW CRITERIA FOR REPORTING FOREIGN SPACE ACTIVITIES

However, under a recently installed procedure, NORAD is now furnishing information on Soviet satellites according to the following three criteria:

(a) Data on foreign space activities which has been authorized for public release through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense (Public Affairs).

(b) Data on foreign space activities officially reported to the United Nations registry if NORAD orbital elements generally confirm the registry.

(c) Data on foreign space activities (including failures) which have been publicly announced by the foreign government concerned and which are generally confirmed by NORAD data.

In addition to the satellite situation report, NASA publishes the NORAD Prediction Bulletin. This bulletin provides information of primary interest to scientists.

The frequency of publication is generally once a week, although it is irregular. Information contained is on all unclassified major payloads in orbit.

The distribution includes about 200 addressees which are normally scientific organizations. This report as received from NORAD is distributed to these organizations without charge. It can be had on request by anyone.

Mr. Chairman, thank you sir.

I have with me Mr. Brockett of the Office of Tracking and Data Acquisition of NASA, who, if you desire—if the committee desires—could put on this screen a page from a satellite situation report, and answer questions of any nature that you and the committee might wish.

Mr. Moss. Is there any objection to having the page report screened and explained to us?

Mr. MEADER. Mr. Chairman, before that, may I just ask one question for clarification? I notice you said the satellite situation report reported only on objects in earth orbit.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MEADER. Now, there are other space objects that are not in earth orbit, are there not? For instance, the shot to Venus and the Russian shot around the moon.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir; we would include, we did include the Mariner shot, too.

Mr. MEADER. In other words, your situation report is on all space objects?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. MEADER. Not just earth orbits?

Dr. SIMPSON. All objects in space, yes, sir.

REPORTING CRITERIA QUESTIONED

Mr. HARDY. Mr. Chairman, before we proceed along this other avenue, just a question in connection with the listing of items which you publish.