

Under the procedure that NORAD is following, apparently you list on page 5 a., b., and c. I presume, maybe it is not a proper presumption, but is there an interrelationship between a. and c.? In c. you said "data on foreign space activities (including failures) which have been publicly announced by the foreign government concerned."

Do we wait for them to announce it? Do we have any sources of knowledge other than their public announcements? That is my question.

Dr. SIMPSON. NASA does not. I don't know what sources other agencies of the Government may have. But c. as I understand it is especially designed to make clear that we were not going to withhold and not publish launches that have been publicly announced by other governments.

Mr. HARDY. It seems to me that that is a rather gratuitous sort of an expression, to say that you are not going to withhold from the public of the U.S. announcements which have been made by other nations. This is rather superfluous, isn't it?

Dr. SIMPSON. Well, sir, I didn't write this.

Mr. HARDY. I figured that you didn't, but you must have a pretty good hand that writes these things for you.

Dr. SIMPSON. No, sir; I didn't originate this. What I mean to say, this was written in the Department of Defense.

Mr. HARDY. I know, but you are supposed to be able to tell us what it means.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDY. At least you are the present witness we have got.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir. My intention is simply to say that this does indicate clearly we are going to report, as received from NORAD for publication here, objects announced by foreign governments.

Mr. HARDY. Don't you see how that hits me right between the eyes?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. HARDY. You come in here to tell us, tell the subcommittee that you are going to tell us about things that foreign governments have publicly announced. Now that is a real fine help you are giving us. Do you see how silly the darned thing is?

Dr. SIMPSON. I understand your reaction entirely, sir. I think it is elaborating the obvious.

Mr. HARDY. It sure is elaborating the obvious, and you tie it in with a. up there "Data on foreign space activities which has been authorized for public release through the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense and Public Affairs."

So if you have any sources of information other than that particular one, you still would not release them unless they were released for publication by the Office of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. So he has got a lock on you pretty doggone tight, hasn't he?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir. We do not release any information on foreign launches—

Mr. HARDY. I don't know why you are in the information business if DOD is going to exercise this kind of control. Maybe you ought to give it back to them and let them release it. They are just as tight as you are, I expect.

Dr. SIMPSON. Let me make one point clear, sir. They don't exercise control over NASA launches. We publish those.