

Our own information we put out. We can publish this information on their launches and on foreign launches only as it is furnished to us. That is right.

Mr. HARDY. Actually this is the kind of a statement that doesn't impress me as worth a thing. It doesn't have any real significance as far as I am concerned. Excuse me, Mr. Chairman.

Mr. Moss. That is perfectly all right, Mr. Hardy.

AGREEMENT RESTRICTS REPORTING BY NASA

Mr. MEADER. If I could follow that up, Mr. Chairman, does NASA recognize the right of the Defense Department to prohibit NASA from publishing information about foreign space activities which have been made public by those foreign governments themselves?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir. I mean that is the record. We have not done this because we publish only information on foreign space activities furnished to us through NORAD, and the record I am sure will show that on occasion announcements made by foreign governments have not been included in the NORAD reports, so I have to say "Yes."

Mr. HARDY. George, we might follow this up together. Public information provided by foreign governments is being suppressed by NORAD, and you are not permitted to release it to the American people. We really are—

Dr. SIMPSON. Let me be accurate, sir. I mean this has happened. It is not now the case, but in answer to your question, yes, it has happened.

Mr. HARDY. According to the way you have got it expressed here, it could still be happening. How do we know it isn't?

Dr. SIMPSON. What I have before me is a statement by the Department of Defense that they will furnish us under c., information that has been announced.

Mr. MEADER. Let me see if this isn't a little ambiguous, number c. Let's assume that the Russians have released to the world generally information about one of their space activities. Let's assume that that has not been confirmed by NORAD.

This c. would not prohibit NASA from publishing it in its satellite situation report, would it? It is only those foreign space activities announced publicly by the foreign government which have been confirmed by NORAD, which are submitted to NASA.

Dr. SIMPSON. No, sir. Under the terms of the agreement with the Department of Defense, we will publish information on foreign launches submitted to us by the DOD.

Mr. MEADER. Whether they were confirmed by NORAD or not, is that correct?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir. I really can't go beyond saying we publish on foreign launches the information given us by NORAD.

Mr. MEADER. What disturbs me, Mr. Simpson, is that NASA will recognize the power of the Defense Department to determine what it can and cannot publish, whether it is Defense Department information or not.

Now with respect to classified Defense Department information, I recognize the right of the Defense Department to limit NASA in its publication activities, but something which is not a Defense Depart-