

ment activity, but is publicly known anyhow, I can't see any reason why NASA should recognize the authority of the Defense Department to tell it it cannot publish information which did not originate within the Defense Department at all.

NASA CITED AS SUBSERVIENT TO DOD

How can you justify that subservience of an independent agency to a department of the Government?

Dr. SIMPSON. Well, sir, there is much here that I am sure I don't know, and I think I am certainly getting over into areas of classification and broad Government policy and jurisdiction which, even if I were fully informed on it, it would probably not be appropriate for discussion in open session.

Mr. HARDY. If we ask you anything that we can't discuss in open session, I would like to have it identified right now. If there is anything that Mr. Meader raised that is not appropriate for open session discussion, I think we ought to know what it is.

Dr. SIMPSON. All right, sir. I feel this way, that what you are saying is that NASA is being subservient to DOD here. I am sure that the Department of Defense has reasons, unknown to me, reasons which undoubtedly are related to other agencies of the Government, for this policy.

You gentlemen, of course, will make your own decisions as to whether or not these are good reasons. What I am trying to say is we don't feel we are subservient to another agency of the Government as an agency, that we are conforming here to Government policy broadly stated, and I am sure, broadly discussed.

But I am not in a position to either inform you on it in any detail. That is what I mean.

Mr. MEADER. Let's ask this question then. Can you see any reason, Mr. Simpson, why information released by a foreign government about their space activities should not be included in your satellite situation report?

Dr. SIMPSON. No, sir; I don't, but that is not up to me to determine.

Mr. MOSS. Mr. Reid?

Dr. SIMPSON. That is not my determination.

Mr. REID. Dr. Simpson, I would like to thank you most warmly for appearing this morning. I have one or two questions that flow from the queries of my colleagues here. First, as I understand it NASA is an independent agency, is that correct?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. And you are charged as an assistant administrator with the Space Administration for Technology Utilization and Policy Planning.

Am I correct in the view that the President has indicated the desire on several occasions for the United States to be first in space?

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. And that NASA is concerned essentially, if not entirely, with the peaceful applications of development of space.

EVALUATION OF SOVIET SPACE EFFORTS TERMED ESSENTIAL

My question therefore is how will it be possible for NASA, as an independent agency and you representing NASA here today, to give