

Dr. SIMPSON. I am in no position to suggest what part of the Government should have this responsibility. My guess would be that it would be a total responsibility.

But so far as the unclassified information that is available from Russian sources or any other sources, NASA collects it for its own uses, and we put it out, and I think this is very excellent, and there is no reason why we shouldn't do it.

Mr. REID. Let me ask you this, and be a little more specific. What in your judgment is unclassified in the Soviet space effort? What do you consider is classified? Should a peaceful space effort, a peaceful launch, be classified?

Dr. SIMPSON. Sir, I have no participation in these things at all. So far as I know nobody in NASA does.

It would just be ridiculous for me to try to sit here and say a certain kind of activity in the Russian space effort should or should not be classified. I really don't—

Mr. REID. You are responsible for policy planning. What does that consist of? Does policy not comprehend how our space effort is making out in a peaceful sense?

Dr. SIMPSON. It comprehends the policies of the NASA space effort itself. It has no relation to the policies of the Russian space effort.

Mr. REID. But as I understand it, the President has made clear, both to the American people and to the Congress, the importance of a peaceful effort in space.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. And he has encouraged the American people and the Congress to support this effort. As I understand it, NASA is principally charged with the peaceful development of this program.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. And yet, you are in effect saying, you can only comment on the U.S. effort, without relationship to the Soviet effort.

Now if we are way ahead of the Soviet effort, that is interesting. If we are way behind, that is equally interesting. My concern is that we need to have some kind of evaluation.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. REID. Between what we have got to do to catch up.

Dr. SIMPSON. I think your point is well taken. I can only say that it is not NASA's responsibility to make this comparison.

SOVIET CAPABILITIES NOT ASSESSED BY NASA

Mr. HARDY. May I follow that up. You stress this lack of statutory responsibility. Can you put your finger on any other agency that does have a statutory responsibility for assessing and evaluating peaceful space effort in other countries?

Dr. SIMPSON. Please, sir, I said—

Mr. HARDY. I think you are ducking a responsibility which must be inherent in the Space Act.

Now let's boil the thing down. You say that you don't have assigned statutory responsibility. So far as I know, the Department of Defense doesn't necessarily have the assigned responsibility of