

Dr. SIMPSON. All right, sir. Yes, sir, I agree that we should make all information on the Russian space effort which we have that is unclassified available, and I think you will find, sir, that we are doing this. Now then, we come to the question of assessment, which is where this began, and that is a different matter.

Mr. MEADER. I am not trying to make that point.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

INFORMATION CLASSIFICATION UNCHALLENGED

Mr. MEADER. But I may have misunderstood you, and I hope I did. But my understanding is that if there is information about a Russian space activity which the Russians themselves have made public, but our Defense Department or NORAD undertakes to classify that information, you will respect that classification, and even thought it is already made public, you would not observe 2454 in making this information available to the American public, notwithstanding the fact it was already available to them, if they could speak Russian or maybe some other foreign newspaper might have carried the story.

Dr. SIMPSON. Sir, I must agree, as members of the committee staff have know all along, that this is not on the surface a reasonable posture. I agree with that.

But I do not know what other considerations there are that must be taken into account by the people who make these determinations. I am not willing to think that they don't see this as you see it on the surface, and I must simply ask you to find out from them, if it can be found out, what these considerations are.

I am not going to sit here and say that I don't see what you are talking about, that this does not look on the surface like an unreasonable situation. I have seen this all along, ever since I took this job.

However, we are responsive to the fact that there may very well be other considerations which the Government as a whole takes into account in these matters, and I simply must direct you to those who do this.

Mr. Moss. Dr. Simpson, I think we must go back to 1958 at the time of the creation of the special committee of the House and of the Senate, to determine the type of agency which the Congress desired to create for the purpose of permitting the United States to fully engage in space exploration and the development of new technology.

We recognized at that time that there was a considerable interest in having this function performed within the military departments of our Government.

Dr. SIMPSON. Yes, sir.

Mr. Moss. But the Congress determined that this would be a civilian agency, not a military agency.

I said I played a role in having this provision guaranteeing information placed in the statute. The report of the Select Committee of the 85th Congress details all of the efforts of the subcommittee—working with Congressman McCormack and then Senator Lyndon Johnson, who was chairman of the committee on the Senate side—to bring about the inclusion of clear language in the statute.