

higher levels of government, who have made decisions to declassify certain material related to space, which I think you do want to discuss, judging from the record.

But we have no intelligence responsibility for attempting to run an espionage operation. This cannot be done in the open.

I am just expressing a personal judgment that I do not believe that it is wrong to classify the details.

Mr. REID. Do you think it is impossible to tell the American people in broad outline the truth?

Dr. DRYDEN. No.

Mr. REID. About the Soviet space effort?

Dr. DRYDEN. No. As I say, we have. We have testified that we have known of the Soviet failures. The experience is roughly the same.

I think in both cases we have improved through the years. Certainly in NASA's case we started with 30 or 40 percent failures, and it went down so that now our successes are 50 or 60. Last year every scientific satellite was successful, thanks to the experience gained with the Delta vehicle.

Our early experiments with Ranger were all unsuccessful. We will have successful Ranger experiments as we deal with those difficulties.

Now the Soviets have had similar experiences in general, and not greatly different from our own. I think that much should be and has been told to the American people.

DECLASSIFICATION HANDLED AT HIGHEST LEVELS

Mr. REID. Might I ask this: There was introduced in the record at a previous hearing a letter directed from Members of the Congress to NASA with regard to Soviet space failures.

In response to that communication, NASA did indicate a certain number that had been involved. This was a joint letter from Senator Kerr and Congressman Miller under date of September 5, 1962, to Mr. Webb.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. And in his response he indicated certain space failures in 1960, 1961, and 1962. Was there some reason why those could be announced, and previous or subsequent ones cannot be?

Dr. DRYDEN. The matter of the declassification of this particular information was handled at the highest levels of Government. NASA was represented in the discussions. The group dealing with the release decided to release it in this particular way.

Now I might tell you that today I believe there will be a second exception, and a release of information on Soviet failures, in this case, connected with the U.N. registration problem. The Soviets have failed to announce certain launches which have left objects in earth orbit.

The Secretary of State, in accordance with this procedure, has authorized Mr. Stevenson to send a letter to the Secretary General of the U.N. giving the dates of these launchings.

Previous to this, the Secretary has taken up with the Russian Ambassador and said, "If you do not report these yourselves to the United Nations we intend to do so." It is my understanding that