

Mr. HARDY. I think they believe we are making progress, but I am not at all sure they are convinced that the Russians aren't making progress too, and I don't know that you are convinced of that.

Dr. DRYDEN. I am sure the Russians are making progress. You see it in every flight.

Mr. HARDY. But how do we measure the relative situation?

Dr. DRYDEN. This I would be glad to do, if the committee wants to start on an evaluation, I will be very happy to undertake this.

Mr. HARDY. I am not trying to get into that now.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is what I understood.

METHODS OF RELEASING INFORMATION

Mr. HARDY. I am trying to look at the problem of how we would do it. I am not talking about trying to undertake it at the moment.

But I just have a little trouble understanding why it is that the only way you can shake loose this kind of information is to have a joint letter from the chairmen of the two committees of the Congress, pointing out that these statements have appeared in the public press, and asking for specific information, and if we have got to wait for something like that to happen, every time for some outside reporter to come in with the news——

Dr. DRYDEN. The actual mechanism of this was a consideration by the mechanisms that are set up to declassify intelligence information, the same mechanisms that operated in the case of the Cuban situation.

Mr. HARDY. The letter that provoked the reply from Mr. Webb was the letter signed by Mr. George Miller and Senator Kerr.

Dr. DRYDEN. The letters were prepared after the decision was made.

Mr. HARDY. Well, in other words, NASA asked George and Senator Kerr to ask for the information, so you would have a basis for telling us, is that what you are telling the committee?

Dr. DRYDEN. We told the Congressmen that this information was available, and they immediately asked for it. I think that is a natural reaction.

Mr. HARDY. So then this was window dressing. George Miller put in his letter:

The Saturday morning newspapers carried an article reporting that the Soviet Union failed in an attempt to successfully send a space vehicle to Venus on August 25, 1962——

and then it goes on to say——

Dr. DRYDEN. I said before I cannot testify in detail on this, because I was in London at the time.

Mr. HARDY. The letter starts out though with this statement:

In the past week there have been two reports in the press which have troubled us as chairmen of the House and Senate Committees on Space—— and then they go into these stories. And you tell us now that actually the committees of the Congress were prompted to ask you for this business.

Dr. DRYDEN. I said they were told that the information was available, and they immediately asked for it. I think this is natural. I think George wrote the letter. I don't know anything about it.