

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. However that may be defined.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. But it is a clear responsibility.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. REID. Let me say this: I have had a little opportunity overseas as American Ambassador to see the reaction on foreign governments of the Soviet space effort and of our space effort.

Dr. DRYDEN. Right.

Mr. REID. I do not believe it to be an understatement to say that certainly a few years back, and my guess is it would be true today, that many people throughout the world—Africa, Asia, and the Near East—are inclined to think that the Soviets are making very marked progress in comparison to us.

Dr. DRYDEN. This has changed very radically in the last 2 years.

Mr. REID. Let's pursue this a little bit further. That in essence we are second best. Now this at least was the impression. Now maybe it has changed a little, I don't know.

To the extent that the average fellow in the street, whether it is in Baghdad, Jidda, Tel Aviv, or Addis Ababa or Cairo thinks we are second best, can you not appreciate that this damages seriously the stature of the United States, the credibility of our power and the effectiveness of our foreign policy?

Dr. DRYDEN. No question about it.

CITES NEED TO REVEAL SOVIET FAILURES

Mr. REID. Therefore, if this is so, should not NASA seriously undertake to put the Soviet effort, particularly its failures, in clear perspective to the world?

Now you repeatedly have invoked national security and the intelligence community. You have tended I think to indicate that the American people do not need to be told certain details, that they would not understand certain details. I frankly question that point of view.

I think they could be told and should be told much more. But leaving that question aside for the moment, in my judgment NASA may not have fulfilled its full responsibilities. It may have been derelict and indeed it may have damaged the administration and the effectiveness of our foreign policy to the extent it has not assessed or assessed in conjunction with the President the shortcomings of the Soviet effort, because if you make the Soviets 10 feet tall, and you know that they are not, then you have advanced Soviet foreign policy unwittingly.

It seems to me that serious consideration should be given to fully informing the American people and the rest of the world that the Soviets have had, from your testimony today, very real and serious space failures.

I do not think that this has registered throughout the world. I do not indeed think it has registered to the American people.

Therefore, my query is what can you now do, consistent with your responsibilities, to put the Soviet space failures in clear and unquestioned perspective, because I submit that that is not now the case.