

now what compromise would be involved if we were merely to summarize periodically the total Soviet space failure."

The initiative here I think should come from NASA, because of the clear language of the statute, and you realize as I do that at the time this was originally proposed, it was mildly controversial.

Dr. DRYDEN. I haven't read the debate recently, but the intent was not to get into classified matters.

Mr. MOSS. The intent was not to disclose classified information.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is correct.

Mr. MOSS. And this subcommittee is not interested in disclosing classified information.

Dr. DRYDEN. But the information you are talking about at present is classified.

Mr. MOSS. But this committee feels that it has a responsibility to question the wisdom of classification.

Dr. DRYDEN. That is something else.

Mr. MOSS. And we have done so repeatedly.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes, I think this is certainly a matter which the committee can and should raise. The matter which we have been talking about is classified. There is a mechanism for its declassification.

Mr. MOSS. Then let me ask you this, sir, because we are very familiar with the mechanisms of declassification.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

CLASSIFICATION NOT REVIEWED BY NASA

Mr. MOSS. I have spent 8 years dealing with them. But are you satisfied at the moment that the total dimension of classification is fully justified?

Dr. DRYDEN. No.

Mr. MOSS. So you do have a question in your own mind as to whether or not it is appropriately classified?

Dr. DRYDEN. In some instances, yes.

Mr. MOSS. In some instances. But has the agency then, through either you or Director Webb, raised this question?

Dr. DRYDEN. We do not undertake to review the classification policies of other coordinate branches of the executive branch. This is a matter to be taken up at a higher level.

Mr. MOSS. Wasn't CIA created in part as a service agency to gather information at a central point, rather than having all of the departments and agencies of Government engaged in this activity?

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. MOSS. So it is, in effect, in part at least, a service agency. It is there to meet your needs, to gather the information which you require.

Dr. DRYDEN. Yes.

Mr. MOSS. In fully discharging the responsibilities imposed upon you by the Congress. Of course we can argue this one for a long time.

Dr. DRYDEN. However, we have no jurisdiction over Mr. McCone. I think it is a little unfair to expect that we are going to review his classification policies.

Mr. MOSS. I did not say that you had jurisdiction, Dr. Dryden, but I say you have a right.