(The questions and answers submitted are as follows:)

Question 1. When do you anticipate that you will be able to go forward with your Earth Resources Technology Satellite and what kind of funding are we talking about for this program?

Answer. We are proceeding with in-house studies and design effort in FY 1969 and anticipate supporting these studies with contractual effort using a portion of the FY 69 funding authorization. We expect to be technically prepared to proceed into Phase D efforts (final hardware design, development, fabrication, test, launch and post-launch operations) early in FY 1970, assuming favorable Executive and Congressional action on our FY 1970 budget submission. Our current estimate for funding requirements for a two-satellite project including the study effort and launch vehicles is $47.7 million.

Question 2. Who will be responsible for operating this satellite once it is developed?

Answer. The Earth Resources Technology Satellite (ERTS) is an experimental satellite. NASA will be responsible for post-launch operations of the satellite as well as its development. We are working closely with the user agencies (Departments of Agriculture, Commerce, Interior and Navy) to jointly establish requirements for data formatting, data storage, and data retrieval. As in other applications programs, the user agencies will play the major role in analysis and later utilization of the data obtained from these R&D satellites. NASA and the user agencies will jointly and cooperatively evaluate the performance in orbit of these satellites.

Question 3. Have any steps been taken to see that the operation of this satellite is properly coordinated among the various agencies that would have an interest in the data that it will collect?

Answer. In order to insure that the development and the operation of this satellite project are properly coordinated among the various agencies, a formal Earth Resources Survey Program Review Committee (ERSPRC) chaired by NASA was established on July 15, 1968. The membership of this Committee is as follows:

NASA—Dr. John E. Naugle (Chairman).
NASA—Mr. Leonard Jaffe.
Dept. of Agriculture—Dr. Ned D. Bayley.
Dept. of Interior—Dr. William T. Pecora.
Dept. of Commerce—Dr. Robert M. White.
Dept. of Navy—Dr. Robert A. Frosch.
NASA—Mr. J. Robert Porter (Secretary).

This Committee, which has met twice so far, is responsible for:

(*a*) Reviewing and analyzing the total program in Earth Resources Survey, including any substantive issues which may arise;

(*b*) providing advice and recommendations to NASA concerning the current and future responsiveness of the NASA Research and Development Program to user agency requirements;

(*c*) providing advice and recommendations to user agencies aimed at achieving maximum integration of requirements and a coordinated national program.

Space Power Program

Question 4. What is your current objective for the SNAP–8 project?

Answer. The overall long-range objectives of the OART SNAP–8 program are to provide the technology leading to the ultimate development of a long-life (10,000 hours or longer), reactor space power system suitable for manned and unmanned applications in the 30–100 KWe range and to develop the technical and management knowledge necessary for the effective and economic design, development, and evaluation of long-life reactor dynamic systems, including those aspects associated with the operation of a dynamic power conversion system with a reactor.

The current objectives for the SNAP–8 technology project are to conduct limited performance and endurance tests on SNAP–8 components and a breadboard power conversion system and to solve any life-limiting deficiencies found such as in the boiler and turbine as a basis for evaluating whether we can eventually meet the life objectives of the program.

All three system pumps (NaK, lubricant, and mercury) have now successfully passed 10,000 hours without any life-limiting deficiencies. The other components,