

National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue  
Washington 25, D. C.

UNITED STATES NATIONAL COMMITTEE  
for the  
INTERNATIONAL GEOPHYSICAL YEAR, 1957-58

October 9, 1957

MEMORANDUM

To: Members, etc., USNC-IGY Rocket and Satellite Panels and  
the USNC

From: Hugh Odishaw, Executive Director, USNC-IGY

Subject: USSR Satellite

1. Response of USNC to the USSR achievement.

Enclosed, in chronological order, are statements released by the NAS/USNC-IGY in response to inquiries beginning the evening of October 4. These statements are submitted for your information and use. Those affiliated with the IGY, if called upon to comment, are asked to bear in mind: (i) appropriate recognition, as suggested in the enclosures, of the Soviet success, for progress from whatever source, freely shared, is welcome and (ii) the accomplishment is within the framework of the peaceful, cooperative IGY program.

2. Tracking data.

Visual and optical data should be sent to the Smithsonian Astrophysical Observatory, 60 Garden Street, Cambridge 38, Massachusetts.

Radio data should be sent to the Vanguard Control Center, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington 25, D. C.

3. Statements on tracking data and conclusions derived therefrom.

In general, the above institutions should be allowed to make statements on the data and their analyses, for these institutions have been assigned, respectively, the optical and radio tracking tasks. Statements by others in these technical areas should be discussed with this office. Statements by the above two institutions should also, if at all possible, be phoned in prior to release.

enclosures

National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

October 4, 1957  
8:30 p.m.

Statement by Hugh Odishaw, Executive Director

U.S. National Committee for IGY

National Academy of Sciences

The launching of a U.S.S.R. satellite, as reported this evening, is of great scientific interest. We await with interest the definition of a specific orbit and details of their scientific experiments.

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2101 Constitution Avenue, N. W.  
Washington 25, D. C.

October 5, 1957  
12:00 noon

Statement by Dr. Detlev W. Bronk, President

National Academy of Sciences

Friendly competition as well as cooperation is a stimulus to achievement in science as in other forms of human endeavor. Because scientists are human they naturally wish to be first to achieve success in a scientific undertaking. But all scientists are fellow explorers on the frontiers of knowledge, who rejoice and benefit in the discoveries and achievements of their colleagues. And so we of the United States congratulate Soviet scientists on their achievement of yesterday.

National Academy of Sciences  
2101 Constitution Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

October 5, 1957  
1:00 p.m.

Statement by Dr. Joseph Kaplan, Chairman

U.S. National Committee for IGY

National Academy of Sciences

Reports were received yesterday that a satellite had been launched by the U.S.S.R. as part of their International Geophysical Year Program. This achievement represents an important contribution by the scientists and engineers of the U.S.S.R. We await with great interest details of their work.

Beginning last night my colleagues engaged in the American rocket and satellite programs tracked the Soviet satellite by radio methods. The Soviet satellite is broadcasting signals on 20 and 40 megacycles. These signals have been received at many points in the United States and its territories, permitting us to predict its path. We shall continue to follow the Soviet satellite and to conduct scientific studies with these data.

Our own satellite program is proceeding according to schedule. This program has involved the development of specific rockets for research satellites and the development of instruments to measure properties of the sun and of the upper atmosphere. There are many nations cooperating in this effort, and we have made available pertinent information to all IGY groups. We believe that through such international cooperation we shall obtain a maximum of results in the exploration of the high atmosphere.

During the last week we have been meeting with scientists of a dozen nations with interests in the IGY rocket and satellite programs. These sessions have been most fruitful and have contributed to furthering international cooperation in the IGY program. This - the IGY - is an unprecedented study of man's environment, in which 64 nations are participating enthusiastically, seeking to learn more about our earth and the universe.