

**Reconsidering Sputnik:  
Forty Years Since the Soviet Satellite**

S. Dillon Ripley Center Auditorium  
Smithsonian Institution  
1100 Jefferson Drive S.W.  
Washington, D.C.  
September 30 - October 1, 1997

NASA History Office, NASA Headquarters Office of Policy and Plans  
National Air and Space Museum, Smithsonian Institution  
Space Policy Institute, The George Washington University  
Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Woodrow Wilson Center for International  
Scholars

On October 4, 1957 the Soviet Union lofted the first artificial satellite, *Sputnik I*, into Earth orbit. This 184-pound, basketball-sized sphere ushered in the era of the space race. At the height of the Cold War and several months into the International Geophysical Year, the Soviet Union had beaten the United States into space, a symbolically significant achievement. In the immediate aftermath, the American public was greatly distressed and the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was created within a year. The real significance of the *Sputnik I* launch can be seen over the long term, however, as the race for human exploration of the Moon began in the early 1960s, global satellite communications became a reality, and new generations of scientific spacecraft began exploring the universe.

The NASA Office of Policy and Plans/History Office, the National Air and Space Museum, the George Washington University Space Policy Institute, and the Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies are proud to sponsor a symposium on the impact of Sputnik. Separate panels will address Soviet and American activities prior to Sputnik, immediate ramifications of the launch in the United States and around the world, and some of the long-term consequences.

The symposium will take place in the auditorium of the S. Dillon Ripley Center of the Smithsonian Institution at 1000 Jefferson Drive SW, Washington, DC. Attendance at the symposium is open to the public, but seating is limited so early registration is strongly encouraged. There is a \$30 registration fee for breakfast, lunch, and refreshments.

## AGENDA

### Tuesday, September 30

9:00 a.m. Welcome, Announcements, and Introduction by Alan M. Ladwig, NASA Associate Administrator for Policy and Plans; Roger D. Launius, NASA Chief Historian; and John M. Logsdon, Director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University

9:15 a.m. Keynote Speech: "Was Sputnik Really a Saltation?" by Walter A. McDougall, Professor of History and International Relations, University of Pennsylvania

9:45 a.m. The Soviet Union and Sputnik

Chair: Marcia S. Smith, Science Policy Research Division, Congressional Research Service

"Rising from the Cradle: Soviet Public Perceptions of Spaceflight Before Sputnik," by Peter A. Gorin

"Korolev, Sputnik, and the International Geophysical Year," by Asif A. Siddiqi, Department of History, Carnegie Mellon University

"Korolev's Triple Play: Sputniks 1, 2, and 3" by James J. Harford, Executive Director Emeritus, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics

"State Program, Bureaucratic Entrepreneurship, or Scientific Autonomy? Policymaking Processes and Structures Behind the Launch of Sputnik" by Andrew J. Aldrin, TRW Components International and Department of Political Science, California State University at Long Beach

11:00 a.m. Break

11:15 a.m. Space and the International Geophysical Year

Chair: Derek Elliott, Department of History, Geography, and Political Science, Tennessee State University

"Before Sputnik: National Security and the Formation of U.S. Outer Space Policy, 1953-1957," by Kenneth A. Osgood, Department of History, University of California at Santa Barbara

"A Strategy for Space," by Dwayne A. Day, Guggenheim Fellow, National Air and Space Museum

"Sputnik and the IGY," by Rip Bulkeley, Oxford, England

12:30 p.m. Lunch (catered box)

1:30 p.m. Immediate Ramifications of Sputnik in the United States

Chair: John M. Logsdon, Director of the Space Policy Institute at George Washington University

“Sputnik, the Gaither Committee, and the Escalation of the Cold War,” by David L. Snead, Richmond, VA

“Organizing the U.S. Government for Outer Space: 1957-1958,” by Eilene Galloway, Honorary Director, International Institute of Space Law and Trustee Emeritus, International Academy of Astronautics

“Sputnik: A Political Symbol and Tool in 1960 Campaign Politics,” by Gretchen J. Van Dyke, Department of Political Science, University of Scranton

“Opening the Space Age: A Legacy of the International Geophysical Year,” by J.A. Simpson, Enrico Fermi Institute and Department of Physics, University of Chicago

3:00 p.m. Break

3:15 p.m. Immediate Ramifications of Sputnik - International Perspectives

Chair: Steven J. Dick, U.S. Naval Observatory

“Building a Third Space Power: Western European Reactions to Sputnik at the Dawn of the Space Age,” by John Krige, Director, Centre de Recherche en Histoire des Sciences et des Techniques, Paris

“Sputnik and France: A ‘Mission to Civilize?’,” by Guillaume de Syon, History Department, Albright College

“The Impact of Sputnik on American Foreign Policy,” by Lawrence S. Kaplan, Director Emeritus, Lemnitzer Center for NATO and European Community Studies, Kent State University

4:30 p.m. General Discussion

5:00 p.m. Adjourn

## **Wednesday, October 1**

7:45 am Breakfast at National Air and Space Museum

9:00 a.m. Welcome and Announcements by Roger D. Launius, NASA Chief Historian, and Blair D. Ruble, Director, Kennan Institute for Advanced Russian Studies, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars

9:15 a.m. Keynote Address: "The Long Term Consequences of the Soviet Union's Investment in Space Exploration," by Sergei Khrushchev, Watson Institute, Brown University

9:45 a.m. Long-term Consequences of Sputnik:

Chair: Robert W. Smith, Chair, Space History Department, National Air and Space Museum

"Reflections on Sputnik," by Roald Sagdeev, East-West Space Science Center, University of Maryland

"Artifacts or Facts?: Soviet Space Historiography in the Last Forty Years," by Cathleen S. Lewis, Department of Space History, National Air and Space Museum

Break

"Sputnik and the Creation of the Soviet Space Industry," by William P. Barry, Department of Political Science, U.S. Air Force Academy

"A Certain Future: American Higher Education and the Survival of a Nation," by John A. Douglass, University California at Santa Barbara and Berkeley Center for Studies in Higher Education

"Sputnik and Technological Surprise," by Glenn P. Hastedt, Department of Political Science, James Madison University

12:00 p.m. Adjourn