

EISENHOWER DIRECTIVE

NSC 5918—Draft Statement (17 December 1959)

****Excerpts reflect format and wording from NSC 5918/1 (26 January 1960)**

See *Presidential Decisions: NSC Documents* pages 68-71

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Psychological Exploitation

36. To minimize the psychological advantages which the USSR has acquired as a result of space accomplishments, select from among those current or projected U.S. space activities of intrinsic military, scientific or technological value, one or more projects which offer promise of obtaining a demonstrably effective advantage over the Soviets and, so far as is consistent with solid achievements in the over-all space program, stress these projects in present and future programming.

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Reconnaissance Satellites

39. As soon as reasonably practicable, subject to limitations imposed by the President, use reconnaissance satellites to enhance the U. S. intelligence effort.

40. Consider the extent to which information obtained through the military use of space, as in the case of reconnaissance satellites, can be applied to civil purposes.

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International Principles, Procedures and Arrangements

42. Continue to support the principle that, in so far as peaceful exploration and use of outer space are concerned, outer space is freely available for exploration and use by all, and in this connection: (a) consider as a possible U. S. position the right of transit through outer space of orbital space vehicles or objects not equipped to inflict injury or damage; (b) where the U. S. contemplates military applications of space vehicles and significant adverse international reaction is anticipated, seek to develop measures designed to minimize or counteract such reaction; and (c) consider the usefulness of international arrangements respecting celestial bodies.

43. Taking into account, among other factors, the relationship of outer space capabilities to the present and future security position of the United States:

- a. Study the scope of control and character of safeguards required in an international system designed to assure that outer space be used for peaceful purposes
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only; include in this study an assessment of the technical feasibility of a positive enforcement system and an examination of the possibility of multilateral or international control of all outer space activities.

b. Study the relationship between any international arrangement to assure that outer space be used for peaceful purposes only and other aspects of the regulation and reduction of armed forces and armaments.

c. In connection with the prosecution of studies enumerated in 45(a) and (b), give full consideration to the requirements of U.S. security interests.

44. In the interest of establishing an international basis for orderly accomplishment of space flight operations, explore the desirability of and, where so indicated, seek international agreement on such problems as: (a) some form of identification and registration of space vehicles which is to the net advantage of national security; (b) liability for injury or damage caused by space vehicles; (c) reservation of radio frequencies for space vehicles and the related problem of termination of transmissions; (d) avoidance of interference between space vehicles and aircraft; and (e) the re-entry and landing of space vehicles, through accident or design, on the territory of other nations.

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