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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

W/ MR QUARLES
Mr Holaday
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5 JUL 1957

The Honorable Donald Quarles
The Deputy Secretary of Defense
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Secretary:

Thank you for your memorandum of 20 June 1957, transmitting the letter to you from Mr. V. A. Nekrassoff.

Information concerning the timing of the launching of the Soviet's first earth satellite is sketchy, and our people here do not believe that the evidence is sufficient as yet for a probability statement on when the Soviets may launch their first satellite.

However, data has been recently received that Alexander Mesnyanov, President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, stated that, "soon, literally in the next few months, the earth will get its second satellite." Other information, not so precise, indicates that the USSR probably is capable of launching a satellite in 1957, and may be making preparations to do so on IGY World Days or Special World Days. The U. S. community estimates that for prestige and psychological factors, the USSR would endeavor to be first in launching an earth satellite.

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Mr. Nekrassoff's postulation of 17 September 1957, presents an interesting consideration when we note that the public releases on Vanguard project set the first launching of the U. S. satellite in 1958, and the date 17 September 1957, would permit the Russians to attain the objective of a first launching. Further, the Russians like to be dramatic and could well choose the birthday of Tsiolkovsky to accomplish such an operation, especially since this is the one hundredth anniversary of his birth. On the other hand, no IGY World Day has been established in September 1957.

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Sincerely,
Allen W. Dulles
Allen W. Dulles
Director

7.5.57

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