

WITHDRAWAL SHEET (PRESIDENTIAL LIBRARIES)

FORM OF DOCUMENT	CORRESPONDENTS OR TITLE	DATE	RESTRICTION
#2b memo	Johnson to Bundy <i>open 12-10-99</i> C 1 p	4/5/65	A
#2c memo	Bundy to President <i>open 12-10-99</i> C 1 p	undated	A
#2g memo	Bundy to Welsh <i>open 12-10-99</i> C 1 p	5/12/61	A
#4 memo	Duplicate of #2g <i>open 12-10-99</i>		

FILE LOCATION

NSF, NSAM, NSAM 50--Official Announcement of Launching into Space of Systems...

Box 1

RESTRICTION CODES

- (A) Closed by Executive Order 12356 governing access to national security information.
- (B) Closed by statute or by the agency which originated the document.
- (C) Closed in accordance with restrictions contained in the donor's deed of gift.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

Mr Rostow

Walt-

Ed + I thought it time
to breathe some life into
NSAM 50 in view of some
of the future NASA space
events that might have
serious results if they were
very unlucky.

eg

NSAM 50

1a

July 1, 1966

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

Subject: Applicability of NSAM 50 (Revised) to Saturn 203 Flight.

Upon being advised that the Saturn 203, scheduled for launch in the near future, would have a radioactive source on board, an inter-agency coordination meeting was called by the Space Council staff. The agencies represented by technologically competent people at the meeting were NASA, AEC, State, Defense, and the NASC. In addition, the matter was gone over with a representative of the National Security Council staff and he concurred with the consensus developed at the meeting.

The question was whether the possibility of radiological injury from this source is slight and whether the launch of this source is of such a nature as to meet with the exception from Presidential action as provided in NSAM 59 (Revised). It was agreed that the supply of radioactive material involved was so small and the risk of injury so remote that no requirement for Presidential action is needed.

I concur in this conclusion and the agencies involved will be so informed.

E. C. Welsh

2/

Mr. Howard, Asst. Secretary of
Defense (Atomic Energy) sent cy
of NSAM 50, 7/21/66

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 10, 1965

2a

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 50 (REVISED)

TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Director, Office of Science and Technology
The Executive Secretary, National Aeronautics
and Space Council

SUBJECT: Launching into Space of Systems Involving Nuclear Power

This memorandum supersedes NSAM 50, dated May 12, 1961
(Confidential).

The President's approval is required for all launches of nuclear power devices into space. This includes orbital and sub-orbital tests of nuclear rockets and nuclear auxiliary power systems (SNAP's). Minor radioactive calibration and heat sources are exempted from the necessity for such approval.

Criteria for approval will include probability of mission success, health and safety factors, and international political considerations, and will be based upon recommendations of the cognizant departments and agencies. While a single approval action for a series of similar tests will suffice, the Secretary of State will be consulted with respect to the timing of each test.

Official announcement of launches involving nuclear power devices will be made by the White House Press Secretary, unless he directs otherwise.

The Executive Secretary of the National Aeronautics and Space Council will be responsible for coordinating requests for approval action and announcements of such launches.

15/
McGeorge Bundy

cc: Press Secretary
The Director, United States Information Agency

DECLASSIFIED

Authority F85-982 under provisions of
E.O. 12356 by B. Regor, Natl. Security
By inf, NARS, Date 11-27-85 Council

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

Despatched 4/13 - Outside repts.

NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20506

26
~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 5, 1965

MEMORANDUM FOR MR. BUNDY

SUBJECT: National Security Action Memorandum
No. 50 (Revised)

Official Announcements of Launching Into Space of
Systems Involving Nuclear Power In Any Form

Mac:

Existing NSAM No. 50, dated May 12, 1961, was intended to cover the orbiting of SNAP devices in 1961. However, we have continued to rely on this obsolete NSAM to reserve to the White House the privilege of announcing such events ever since. However, NSAM No. 50 has become increasingly out of date, and recently with my encouragement Ed Welsh has prepared a revision of NSAM No. 50 to provide current guidance for the space community in relation to the orbiting of nuclear devices. A copy of his proposed revision is attached for your signature if the President approves. I also attach a brief memorandum for the President stating the background and purpose of the revised NSAM.


Charles E. Johnson

Attachments.

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidance, Feb. 24, 1983
By 16, NARA, Date 11-16-99

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

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~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

Dr. Welsh has re-drafted NSAM No. 50 to provide up-to-date guidance for the space community in connection with the orbiting and testing of nuclear devices in space. This new draft would replace the old NSAM No. 50 which had been originally issued in connection with orbiting TRANSIT satellites in 1961. It has been checked out with the responsible agencies listed in the heading of the draft NSAM.

If you agree, I will sign and issue the NSAM.

McGeorge Bundy

Approved _____

Not Approved _____

See Me _____

DECLASSIFIED
White House Guidelines, Feb. 24, 1983
By g, NAFIA, Date 11-16-95

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

2d

FL

NSAM 50?

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS and SPACE COUNCIL


2e

March 29, 1965

To: Mr. Charles Johnson
National Security Council

Attached is the draft of a revision for
NSAM 50, concerning which I talked
on the phone.

Dr. Edelson of my staff is responsible
for the drafting, although he has coordi-
nated it with Richard Hirsch. If you
want further information as regards the
proposed language, please let Edelson
know and he will be pleased to meet with
you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. C. Welsh', with a stylized circular flourish.

E. C. Welsh

2374

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24

~~Confidential~~

DRAFT

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 50 (REVISED)

DECLASSIFIED

To: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration
The Chairman, Atomic Energy Commission
The Executive Secretary, National Aeronautics and Space Council

Authority F85-982 under provisions of EO 12356
by B. Reger, NSC
By plp, NARA, Date 2/4/92

*Smith Office
Science & Technology*

Subject: Launching into Space of Systems Involving Nuclear Power.

This memorandum supersedes NSAM 50 dated May 12, 1961
(Confidential).

The President's approval will be required
~~The President desires to reserve to himself the privilege of~~
granting approval for all launches of nuclear power devices into space.
This includes orbital and sub-orbital tests of nuclear rockets and
nuclear auxiliary power systems (SNAP's). Minor radioactive calibra-
tion and heat sources are exempted from the necessity for such approval.

Criteria for approval will include probability of mission
success, health and safety factors, and international political considera-
tions, and will be based upon recommendations of the cognizant depart-
ments and agencies. While a single approval action for a series of
similar tests will suffice, the Secretary of State will be consulted with
respect to the timing of each test.

severely the decision
(B) ~~The President desires the privilege of identifying who should~~
~~make the first official announcements of launches involving nuclear power~~
~~devices will be made by the Secretary of State the official duty~~

The Executive Secretary of the National Aeronautics and Space
Council will be responsible for coordinating requests for approval action
and announcements of such launches.

McGeorge Bundy

*cc Press Secretary
The Director, United States Info. Agency*

~~OFFICIAL USE ONLY~~

~~Confidential~~

2374

May 12, 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 50

TO: Dr. Edward C. Welsh, Executive Secretary, National
Aeronautics and Space Council

SUBJECT: Official Announcements of Launching Into Space of Systems
Involving Nuclear Power In Any Form

The President desires to reserve to himself all first official announcements covering the launching into space of systems involving nuclear power in any form. The President is especially concerned with announcements relating to the planned use of SNAP devices aboard TRANSIT satellites which are tentatively scheduled for launching in June and July of 1961. Will you please advise members of the Space Council of the President's interest.

McGeorge Bundy

cc: President's Press Secretary
The Director, United States Information Agency

cc: Mrs. Lincoln
Bromley Smith
McG B's File

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Authority NSC web posting
By ly NARA, Date 11-16-99

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

April 10, 1965

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TO: The Vice President
The Secretary of State
The Secretary of Defense
The Administrator, National Aeronautics and
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cc: Press Secretary
The Director, United States Information Agency

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Authority F85-982 under provisions of
E.O. 12356 by B. Rege, Natl. Security Council
By sig, NARS, Date 11-27-85

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May 12, 1961

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

NATIONAL SECURITY ACTION MEMORANDUM NO. 50

TO: Dr. Edward C. Welsh, Executive Secretary, National
Aeronautics and Space Council

SUBJECT: Official Announcements of Launching Into Space of Systems
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McGeorge Bundy

cc: President's Press Secretary
The Director, United States Information Agency

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

DECLASSIFIED

Authority NSC 6226 Policy
By 4 NARA, Date 11-16-89

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