

GUIDED MISSILE AND ASTRONAUTICS INTELLIGENCE COMMITTEE

10 February 1960

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chairman, United States Intelligence Board

**SUBJECT : Statement for Possible Release in Event of
Press Question on Dark Satellite ***

1. In accordance with the request presented at the USIB meeting of 9 February 1960, the following has been approved by GMAIC for use in the event that an unclassified statement on the unidentified earth satellite object is required:

"Currently there are about a dozen man made objects in orbit around the earth, most of which are of US origin. Natural objects such as meteors or meteorites, also may assume an orbit around the earth and become satelloids. The United States makes continued observations of all objects orbiting the earth. Our observation systems are triggered many times each day by meteorites and other natural phenomena as well as by earth satellites. For some time we have had under observation a non-transmitting object orbiting the earth which could be a subassembly of a known space vehicle or it could be an unannounced space vehicle or a natural satelloid."

COMMENTS:

All indications are that this object is inert and poses no threat to the U. S.

It is noted that no mention of possible Soviet origin is included herein. If Soviet, it is likely that it was either launched with unusual secrecy or was a failure, or a partial failure, of a Soviet space venture. In either case the Soviets would be reluctant to accept ownership.


EARL McFARLAND, JR.
Colonel, USAF
Chairman

* This supersedes the 9 February Memo, same subject.

~~SECRET~~