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Rec'd Aug 21 1961

August 18, 1961

The Hon. S. Symington
Senate Building
Washington, D. C.

Dear Senator:

I read an article in TRUE Magazine, June 1961
Edition pertaining to Russia's early attempts to
launch an astronaut.

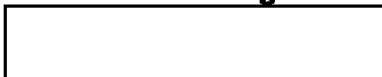
The article written by Mr. James Mills tells how
Alex Ledonsky was killed at Kapustin Yar in 1957,
Serenty Schibarin was killed the following February
and in January 1959 Andrei Mitkov who was killed
shortly after launching.

I am interested to know if this is true and has
it been officially recorded as true by the government
of the United States.

Very truly yours,

/s/ Leo C. Koenig

Leo C. Koenig

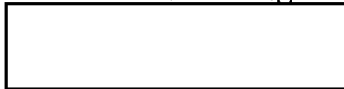


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United States Senate

August 21, 1961

From: Mr. Leo C. Koenig



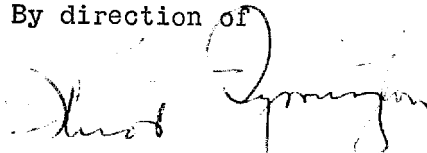
Respectfully referred to

Hon. Allen W. Dulles

Director of Central Intelligence

for such consideration as the communication
herewith submitted may warrant, and for a report
thereon, in duplicate to accompany return of
inclosure.

By direction of

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Stuart Symington".

Stuart Symington

U. S. S.


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61-6796/1

5 SEP 1961

BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence
SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet
Cosmonauts

Attached for your signature is a response to Senator Symington with respect to a query from one of his constituents as to the validity of a TRUE magazine article identifying Soviet cosmonauts who had been killed during space launchings. The names are the same as those which had previously appeared in Drew Pearson's column earlier this year.


HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence

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Attachment:
Letter to Senator Symington

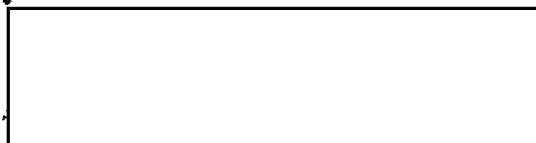
61-6790/1

SEP 1961

BRIEF FOR: Acting Director of Central Intelligence

**SUBJECT: Senator Symington's Letter re Soviet
Cosmonauts**

Attached for your signature is a response to Senator Symington with respect to a query from one of his constituents as to the validity of a TRUE magazine article identifying Soviet cosmonauts who had been killed during space launchings. The names are the same as those which had previously appeared in Drew Pearson's column earlier this year.



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**HERBERT SCOVILLE, JR.
Assistant Director
Scientific Intelligence**

**Attachment:
Letter to Senator Symington**

OSI/OAD/[redacted]ld/[redacted](5 Sep 61)

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Distribution:

- 2 - Addressee
- 2 - OAD/SI
- 1 - DDCI
- 1 - SVB/GMD
- 1 - DD/I
- 1 - GMD/SI
- 1 - Exec Reg.
- 1 - Leg Cnsl

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OSI/OAD/[redacted]ld/[redacted]
 Distribution: 2 - Addressee STAT
 1 - DCI 1 - Leg Casl
 1 - DDCI 1 - DAD/P
 1 - DD/I 2 - SVB/GMD
 1 - Exec Reg. *ultrasonic*
 2 9 OAD/SI 1 - GMD/SI

of enclosure

**Honorable Stuart Symington
 United States Senate
 Washington 25, D. C.**

Dear Senator Symington:

With reference to the query from your constituent, Mr. Koenig, we have no additional information beyond that furnished to the Space and Astronautics Committee early in May. We continue to believe that the Soviets attempted no manned space launches prior to the Gagarin flight.

The information in the article alluded to by Mr. Koenig is similar to information in articles by Jack Anderson and Drew Pearson during April and May of this year. All these articles appear to stem from information released by the Italian News Agency, Continentale, in December 1959. We have no reason to believe any of them to be valid.

Sincerely,

Enclosure: Letter to Senator Symington
 from Mr. Leo C. Koenig

**C. F. Cabell
 General, USAF
 Acting Director**

CONCURRENCES:

[redacted]

Assistant Director/SI
 5 SEP 1961

[redacted]

Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence

SEP 7 1961

SEP 1961

UNCLASSIFIED CONFIDENTIAL SECRET

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP

| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE |
|----|---|----------------|----------------|
| 1 | Acting Deputy Director/Intelligence | <i>DL</i> | <i>7 Lyr</i> |
| 2 | Legislative Counsel ²²¹ East | <i>JWS</i> | 8 Sep 61 |
| 3 | Inspector General 231 Admin | <i>LRK</i> | <i>8 Sep</i> |
| 4 | Acting Director of Central Intelligence <i>Rec'd 9-11-61</i> | <i>CPC/kpm</i> | <i>9/12/61</i> |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |

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|-------------------------------------|-------------|--------------------------|--------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> | DIRECT REPLY | <input type="checkbox"/> | PREPARE REPLY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> | DISPATCH | <input type="checkbox"/> | RECOMMENDATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | FILE | <input type="checkbox"/> | RETURN |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | CONCURRENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | INFORMATION | <input type="checkbox"/> | SIGNATURE |

Remarks: To A/DCI :

This entire matter was reviewed again in OSI and [redacted] indicated that Pete Scoville thought it better to simply furnish Senator Symington with the facts without suggesting a draft response to the constituent. OSI has carefully considered whether or not the position expressed is classified and they believe it is not.

[redacted]
John S. Warner

FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER

| | |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | DATE |
| AD/SI 145 Barton Hall [redacted] | 5 SEP 1961 |

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Approved For Release 2003/05/05 : CIA-RDP80B01676R000700190047-6

| SENDER WILL CHECK CLASSIFICATION ON 560101676R00070019 | | | |
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| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP | | | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE |
| 1 | <input type="text"/> OSI | | |
| 2 | 145 Barton | | |
| 3 | | | |
| 4 | | | |
| 5 | | | |
| 6 | | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | ACTION | <input type="checkbox"/> | DIRECT REPLY |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | APPROVAL | <input type="checkbox"/> | DISPATCH |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | COMMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> | FILE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | CONCURRENCE | <input type="checkbox"/> | INFORMATION |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | PREPARE REPLY |
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| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | RETURN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> | SIGNATURE |
| Remarks: | | | |
| <p>Per our telephone conversation of this afternoon. Please make letter for General Cabell's signature as Acting.</p> | | | |
| <input type="text"/> JOHN S. Warner | | | |
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER | | | |
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | | DATE |
| OGC/LC - 221 East | | | 1 Sept 61 |
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| CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP | | | | | |
| TO | NAME AND ADDRESS | INITIALS | DATE | | |
| 1 | Deputy Director/Intelligence | <i>RA, Jr/m</i> | AUG 28 1961 | | |
| 2 | Legislative Counsel. | <i>Jus</i> | 29 Aug | | |
| 3 | <i>29 231 Admin</i> | <i>LBR</i> | 29 Aug | | |
| 4 | Deputy Director of Central Intelligence | <i>at</i> | | | |
| 5 | Director of Central Intelligence | | | | |
| 5 | <i>Mr. Warner</i> | | | | |
| 6 | <i>(Leg. Counsel)</i> | | | | |
| | ACTION | DIRECT REPLY | PREPARE REPLY | | |
| 3 | APPROVAL | DISPATCH | RECOMMENDATION | | |
| | COMMENT | FILE | RETURN | | |
| 1-2 | CONCURRENCE | INFORMATION | 4 SIGNATURE | | |
| Remarks: <i>(4) to (5) : For revision.</i> <i>5-6 Replied per our telephone conversation and letter to Sen. Symington request for your signature.</i> | | | | | |
| FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER | | | | | |
| FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO. | | | | DATE | |
| AD/SI 145 Barton Hall | | | | | |

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