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THE SECRETARY OF DEFENSE
WASHINGTON

Benjamin Franklin
Wilson
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AUG 26 1957

Dear Mr. President:

I am attaching a short summary of progress made during July 1957 on the ballistic missile programs. The summary shows that consistent progress continues in the testing program.

While there were no flight tests of principal missiles during July, two flights of re-entry test vehicles were of significance. In the more important of these two tests, a scaled-down version of a JUPITER nose cone was recovered after a firing from a JUPITER C re-entry test vehicle. Recovery operations were accomplished according to plan by Naval sea and air units after re-entry of the nose cone was observed by the illuminated trail. After a flight of 1,168 nautical miles and attainment of an altitude of 400 kilometers and a speed of about Mach 14, the nose cone showed ablation to be uniform and only a fourth to a third of the amount expected. Interior temperature of the nose cone remained less than 150 degrees Fahrenheit in spite of evidence that this scaled-down nose cone encountered more severe heat flux conditions than will the full-size JUPITER nose cone when fired to the full 1,500 nautical mile range. The first Navy firing of an X-17 re-entry test vehicle to evaluate POLARIS re-entry body shapes and materials was also successfully conducted.



With respect to the Teamsters Union labor dispute at the Air Force Missile Test Center, the National Labor Relations Board, on 19 August, determined that an election will be held at several of the construction companies to determine the appropriate bargaining agent. The hearing on the State Court injunction has been extended to 16 September. In the interim, construction activity has been normal. Generally, a 60-day delay in completion of facilities has been caused by the strike, although for the ATLAS facilities, about 30 days of the 60-day loss may be regained by a joint occupancy arrangement between the construction agency and the missile contractors.

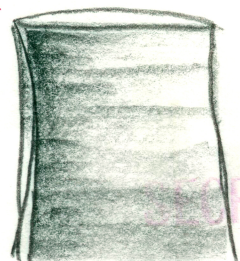
With great respect, I am

Faithfully yours

J. Edgar Hoover

Attachment

The President
The White House



SenDef Cont. No. 5-1112

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