

Drawer 5: Redstone Arsenal Army Period  
File: 1950 (April) - 1960 (July)  
ASMA - transfer to NASA  
File: Congressional Hearing  
VB Collection  
(145)

## Calendar No. 1182

86TH CONGRESS }  
2d Session }

SENATE }

REPORT  
No. 1142

### TRANSFER OF VON BRAUN TEAM TO NASA

FEBRUARY 26 (legislative day, FEBRUARY 15), 1960.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. STENNIS, from the Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, submitted the following

### R E P O R T

[To accompany H.J. Res. 567]

The Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences, to whom was referred the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 567) concerning the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, having considered the same, report favorably thereon with amendments, and recommend that the joint resolution do pass.

#### AMENDMENTS

Strike out the recital immediately preceding the resolving clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

Whereas the Congress believes further that the Dr. von Braun team has demonstrated outstanding proficiency in the development of space propulsion systems and should be kept essentially intact.

Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

That the requirement imposed by clause numbered (2) contained in section 302(c) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 shall have no application to the President's plan for the transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration transmitted to the Congress with a report of January 14, 1960.

Amend the title so as to read:

A joint resolution to authorize the immediate transfer of the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

#### PURPOSE OF THE RESOLUTION

On January 14, 1960, the President submitted to the Congress a detailed proposal to transfer the Army Ballistic Missile Agencies' Development Operations Division to the National Aeronautics and Space Agency.

This proposal was submitted pursuant to section 302(c)(2) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 (72 Stat. 433), which requires that any such transfer made pursuant to the authority contained in section 302 of such act will become effective 60 days after its submission to Congress, unless Congress adopts a concurrent resolution opposing the transfer.

The purpose of House Joint Resolution 567 is to waive the 60 days' waiting period, with respect to this particular transfer.

#### EXPLANATION

The National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 provides that specific functions of other Government agencies and departments may be transferred by the President to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Before January 1, 1959, these transfers were made without prior approval of the Congress. On and after January 1, 1959, such transfer proposals, to become effective, required submission to Congress for 60 days without the Congress adopting a concurrent resolution opposing the transfer.

The transfer plan, submitted to the Congress on January 14, 1960, by the President, is the first such transfer proposal to be received since January 1, 1959, when section 302(c) of the law became applicable.

In the Presidential message accompanying the transfer plan, the President stated:

I have concluded that it is in the best interest of the Nation to take another step at this time—to provide NASA with an organization capable of and equipped for developing and operating large space vehicle boosters and conducting related research. This can be done by transferring to NASA the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and certain supporting personnel. At the same time it is recognized that the Army must continue to be able to discharge its responsibilities for development of missile systems. The transfer plan forwarded herewith is designed to accomplish these purposes.

In testimony before this committee, representatives from the NASA stated:

NASA strongly believes that the addition of the Huntsville group to NASA is essential to the national civilian space pro-

gram. This group will provide NASA with the essential capability not now available to it.

NASA representatives further testified that the adoption of House Joint Resolution 567,

\* \* \* by the Senate at an early date would remove any lingering employment uncertainties for those now connected with the Development Operations Division or those whom NASA seeks to recruit among the administrative and plant support groups now attached to other elements in the Redstone Arsenal organization.

Department of Defense views on this transfer resolution were contained in a letter to the chairman of the House Committee on Science and Astronautics. This letter, dated February 4, 1960, is incorporated in the hearings before this committee.

In this letter Secretary of the Army Wilber M. Brucker stated:

\* \* \* Since the apparent purpose of House Joint Resolution 567 is to give early congressional approval to the transfer plan submitted by the President and since it is not intended to interfere by forced acceleration with the orderly transition planned for July 1, 1960, the Department of the Army, on behalf of the Department of Defense, expresses no objection to the adoption of the resolution.

Witnesses appearing before the committee for the Army and the Department of Defense reiterated the views expressed in Secretary Brucker's letter.

Opposition to the transfer was expressed by Congressman Samuel S. Stratton, from the 32d District of the State of New York. Congressman Stratton contended that the adoption of the resolution would not "speed up" the transfer since the transfer cannot go forward in any event until July 1, 1960. He said that it is a dangerously false assumption "to draw a meaningful line of separation between the military and civilian aspects of missile and rocket development." He further pointed out that the transfer will disrupt a winning combination by the transfer of a proven organization to one which "has yet to demonstrate its capabilities in this field."

Maj. Gen. J. B. Medaris (USA retired), former commanding general of the Army Ordnance Missile Command, stated he did not see any necessity for the passage of the joint resolution. In addressing himself to the merits of the transfer, he recommended that the missile and space development activities of the Nation be unified under a single management within the Department of Defense. He stated, however, that "under the presently developed system, and the situation as it exists now and within the present national organization, I believe that this transfer is the least-bad solution that can be found, and I therefore support it."

The testimony and evidence presented to this committee makes it clear that those persons charged with administering the national space program have determined such a transfer is necessary. Administration witnesses appearing before this committee were unanimous in their support of the adoption of House Joint Resolution 567.

This committee fully recognizes the compelling necessity of developing and operating larger space propulsion boosters. It recognizes

that the personnel headed by Dr. von Braun have demonstrated unusual competence in the development of space propulsion systems. However, this committee has not attempted to pass on the merits or desirability of this transfer by approving House Joint Resolution 567, rather it does want to accommodate those charged with administering the program by reducing the time limitation as well as dispelling any uncertainty of possible disapproval.

#### EXPLANATION OF THE AMENDMENTS

The committee believes that the role of Congress with respect to the proposed transfer will be clarified by amending House Joint Resolution 567. As passed by the House the resolution refers to the plan taking effect immediately. This raises the question of interpretation, since by the terms of the detail plan between the Army and the NASA, actual transfer will not take place until on or about July 1, 1960.

On this point, Mr. Albert F. Siepert, Director of Office of Business Administration of the NASA, stated:

\* \* \* Rather than make an abrupt shift from Army to NASA control, both parties are prepared to take the time to work out details thoroughly before making the official shift of personnel. For this reason many of the personnel shifts and fiscal adjustments are scheduled to begin at the start of the next fiscal year on July 1.

In conclusion, NASA strongly believes that the addition of the Huntsville group to NASA is essential to the national civilian space program. This group will provide NASA with an essential capability not now available to it. The absorption of the Huntsville group by NASA has required reorganization of our headquarters office and a realignment of mission assignments to field centers. These tasks have already been accomplished. The transfer plan, developed in cooperation with the Army, should result in a transfer of these functions to NASA without disrupting ongoing programs.

\* \* \* The transfer plan, under ordinary circumstances, would not become effective until 60 days after its submission to the Congress on January 14, and then only if no adverse resolution has been passed by the Congress. The NASA has noted with appreciation Representative Sisk's resolution (H.J. Res. 567) to expedite favorable action on the transfer plan. This resolution has already passed the House. Its adoption by the Senate at an early date would remove any lingering employment uncertainties for those now connected with the Development Operations Division or those whom NASA seeks to recruit among the administrative and plant support groups now attached to other elements in the Redstone Arsenal organizations.

Also, in this connection Maj. Gen. August Schomburg, commanding general, Army Ordnance Missile Command, testified before the committee as follows:

\* \* \* We are now in the management saddle. If NASA wants to maintain complete and effective control, the best way is to leave it running as it is until the first of July, and then start the change at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Army support only starts to taper at that time. Right after the first of July we will still be doing most of the things for them as we are now. It will taper off sharply in the fiscal control area. But they are going to have to take over a great deal that would be in the area of support, and we will be helping right up until the end of the calendar year on that.

Thus, even though, passage of this resolution cannot actually accelerate the transfer plan, the committee is reporting the resolution, with clarifying amendments, to waive the remaining period of time required by the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 so as to dispel any possible fears that personnel involved in such transfer may have that the plan would be disapproved by the Congress.

#### SUMMARY OF THE ARMY-NASA TRANSFER PLAN

The plan contemplates that those functions of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency relating to the development of space vehicle systems (excluding ballistic missiles) and research connected therewith are to be transferred to the NASA.

A land area consisting of 1,200 acres, with 98 buildings thereon, estimated value \$100 million, located within the confines of Redstone Arsenal, will be leased to the NASA.

Personnel at the Redstone Arsenal presently employed by the Development Operations Division, numbering nearly 3,900 persons, will also be transferred.

Designated Cape Canaveral facilities, belonging to the Army Ordnance Missile Command, having a value of approximately \$14 million, will be transferred to the NASA.

#### COST AND BUDGET DATA

The enactment of the joint resolution will not involve the expenditure of additional Federal funds.

#### COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

A quorum being present, the committee favorably reported the joint resolution, as amended by unanimous vote, and recommends its enactment.