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Transfer to NASA

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January 14

PLEASE USE EXTREME CARE TO AVOID PREMATURE PUBLICATION OR ANNOUNCEMENT.

Anne Whelan  
Associate Press Secretary to the President

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THE WHITE HOUSE

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

In pursuance of the provisions of section 302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 I transmit herewith a transfer plan headed "Making certain transfers from the Department of Defense to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration." This message, together with the transfer plan, constitutes the report to the Congress, relative to the transfers, as required by the provisions of section 302.

Under the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) has primary responsibility for the Nation's program of space exploration. The Department of Defense has responsibility for the Nation's defense program, including the development and operation of space vehicles for defense purposes.

I have recently reviewed the needs and requirements of the two agencies in their respective fields. It is clear that NASA, in order to carry on a vigorous and effective program for the exploration of space, both manned and unmanned, requires boosters for space vehicles greatly exceeding the thrust of any boosters now available. Furthermore, there is at present no clear Department of Defense requirement for such very large boosters. For this reason I assigned sole responsibility for development of space vehicle boosters of very high thrust to NASA last November. In carrying out this responsibility NASA will be fully responsive to specific requirements of the Department of Defense for the development of very large boosters for future military missions. At the same time the Department of Defense and NASA will continue with a coordinated program for the development of boosters based on the current intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) and the intermediate range ballistic missile (IRBM) and growth versions of those missiles.

On the basis of this assignment of responsibility the National Aeronautics and Space Administration has assumed technical direction of the Saturn booster project which was previously under the direction of the Department of Defense. This booster which promises to increase greatly the Nation's ability to explore space is being developed by the Army Ballistic Missile Agency and will soon constitute the major workload of the Development Operations Division of that Agency.

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The foregoing reflects the pertinent arrangements as they now exist. 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 carrying out the transfer plan every effort will be made to prevent the dislocation or disruption of ongoing missile or space vehicle projects. The development of military weapons systems and related programs, currently being worked on by the Development Operations Division, will be continued by the Army, utilizing the skills of the transferred personnel as requested by the Army, on a reimbursable basis.

The transfer of personnel, property, and funds, under the plan, will be accomplished in such manner as to serve the objectives I have outlined.

I urge the Congress to allow the transfer plan transmitted herewith to take effect.

DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER

THE WHITE HOUSE,

January 14, 1960.

## TRANSFER PLAN

Transmitted by the President and delivered to the Congress  
January 14, 1960, pursuant to the provisions of section  
302 of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958  
(72 Stat. 433)

### MAKING CERTAIN TRANSFERS FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Section 1. Those functions (including powers, duties, activities, and parts of functions) of the Department of Defense, or of any officer or organizational entity thereof, relating to the development of space vehicle systems (excluding ballistic missiles) and research connected therewith, which are being performed by the Army Ballistic Missile Agency of the Department of the Army, or by any officer or organizational entity of the said Agency, are transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

Sec. 2. (a) The following shall be transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, pursuant to authority conferred by the provisions of section 302(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and other applicable authority, at such time or times as may be appropriate:

(1) So much of the unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Department of Defense, available or to be made available, as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate to the functions transferred by the provisions of section 1 of this transfer plan and to be needed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in connection with those functions.

(2) To the extent needed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in connection with the aforesaid transferred functions, (i) civilian personnel employed in the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, and other civilian personnel employed in the Department of the Army for administrative and technical support of the Development Operations Division, together with their respective positions, and (ii) records and property of the Department of Defense (including those of any organizational entity of the Department of Defense) relating to the said transferred functions. The Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, jointly, or, to any extent that they shall fail to agree, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, shall (A) determine the number of employees to be

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Sec. 2. (a) The following shall be transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, pursuant to authority conferred by the provisions of section 302(a) of the National Aeronautics and Space Act of 1958 and other applicable authority, at such time or times as may be appropriate:

(1) So much of the unexpended balances of appropriations, allocations, and other funds of the Department of Defense, available or to be made available, as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall determine to relate to the functions transferred by the provisions of section 1 of this transfer plan and to be needed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in connection with those functions.

(2) To the extent needed by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration in connection with the aforesaid transferred functions, (i) civilian personnel employed in the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, and other civilian personnel employed in the Department of the Army for administrative and technical support of the Development Operations Division, together with their respective positions, and (ii) records and property of the Department of Defense (including those of any organizational entity of the Department of Defense) relating to the said transferred functions. The Secretary of Defense and the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, jointly, or, to any extent that they shall fail to agree, the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, shall (A) determine the number of employees to be so transferred and the identity of the particular employees who are to be transferred, (B) designate the specific records and property to be transferred, and (C) fix the date or dates of these transfers.

(b) Without limiting the foregoing provisions of this transfer plan, the functions transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration by the provisions of section 1 of this transfer plan shall include so much of the functions of the Department of Defense, or of any officer or organizational entity thereof, as relate to the appointment and pay of civilian personnel employed in the Development Operations Division of the Army Ballistic Missile Agency, including authority to continue certain transferred positions in grades 16, 17, and 18 of the General Schedule of the Classification Act

of 1949, as amended, pursuant to the provisions of section 1 of Public Law 86-377, and authority to continue certain transferred positions requiring the services of specially qualified scientists or professional personnel pursuant to the provisions of section 2 of Public Law 86-377.

(c) Such further measures and dispositions as the Director of the Bureau of the Budget shall deem to be necessary in order to effectuate transfers under the foregoing provisions of this section shall be carried out in such manner as he shall direct and by such agencies as he shall designate.

Sec. 3. The provisions of this transfer plan shall become effective upon the expiration of the first period of sixty calendar days of regular session of the Congress following the date stated in the heading hereof unless the Congress has during that period adopted a concurrent resolution stating that Congress does not favor this transfer plan. Thereafter, as promptly as may be, this transfer plan shall be published in the Federal Register.

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