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Orig. Sohler

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TO : Mr. Sohler
FROM: Dr. Emme

The following was reported by Mr. Akens, Marshall, and he will check Space Council contacts when Dr. von Braun returns to Huntsville (March 22, 1961, etc.):

Dr. von Braun's calendar shows only "went to Washington"--all Space Council meetings.

Dates of contact with the late President Kennedy:

1. February 23, 1962 - at Cape Canaveral; thinks that Dr. von Braun had private session with Kennedy after the Glenn ceremony.
2. September 11, 1962 - President Kennedy at Marshall (2:30-5:30 pm).
3. February 7, 1963 - breakfast at Mayflower Hotel in Washington with the President
4. May 18, 1963 - President Kennedy flew into Marshall for "about five minutes" conversation. "Looks like we'll be in trouble on our budget."--JFK
5. November 16, 1963 - at Cape Canaveral with President. Discussed SA-5 flight (3-page briefing); told about first testing of hydrogen engine in space. JFK reportedly "excited."

Dr. Wernher von Braun

1. Check list of your visits with President Kennedy:
 - a. Dates
 - b. Occasions
 - c. Subjects discussed
 - d. Anecdotes
2. How did George C. Marshall Space Flight Center feel about the new Administration in January 1961?
3. Lunar landing decision of 1961:
 - a. What was your role in the events leading to this decision in May 1961?
 - b. What is your understanding of the relative inputs of the following to this decision:
 - (1) Large booster program
 - (2) Wiesner Report and PSAC
 - (3) Impact of Russian program and particularly the impact of the Gagarin flight on April 12th
 - (4) Role of the Vice President and the Space Council
 - (5) Your impression of Congressional and public opinion as an influence on the President in this decision
 - (6) Budgetary factors
 - c. Was the mode of the lunar landing a pivotal factor in the 1961 lunar landing decision?
 - d. What were the major problems NASA faced in 1961 (also 1962 and 1963) to achieve the national objective of a lunar landing in this decade?

4. Lunar landing mode decision of 1962:

- a. What was Marshall's role in this NASA decision and White House approval of the LOM?
- b. What impressed you as indications that the President was grasping the details and the thrust of the lunar landing program? Role of the Vice President and the Space Council?

5. Project Mercury:

- a. What were your impressions of the impact of the Mercury flights upon the White House?

Shepard
Grissom
Glenn
Carpenter
Schirra
Cooper

- b. Role of PSAC
- c. Ceremonies in which you participated

6. Saturn decisions:

- a. To what extent were vehicle configurations of direct concern to the White House; the President, Vice President, and staff?
- b. Did President Kennedy appreciate the great genuine significance of ~~xxxx~~ thrust?

7. Your opinion of the impact of other Kennedy policies upon the space program: civil rights, labor relations; Government contracting; Governmental in-house research and development; relations with the military services.
8. In summary, what will historians probably conclude about the impact of the Kennedy Administration upon the history of space flight?
 - a. Strategic implications
 - b. Competition and/or cooperation with the Russians
 - c. Man's mobility ~~xxx~~ in the universe
 - d. Political and economic support for space science and technology
9. Other considerations you feel important about the administration of President Kennedy.