



- 2 -

l'"année géophysique". Lors d'une réunion à Rome, au printemps 1954, le Comité spécial invita notamment tous les pays à, tâcher d'envoyer hors de l'atmosphère terrestre des satellites interplanétaires, et cela pendant la période d'avril 1957 à décembre 1958. Des délégués de l'URSS y assistèrent en qualité d'observateurs. Conformément à cette suggestion, des savants américains s'efforcèrent depuis la réunion de Rome jusqu'au mois dernier de trouver le moyen de réaliser l'envoi d'un satellite et son maintien, au moins temporaire, dans une orbite autour de la terre. Les études ayant montré que ce projet était réalisable dans le temps donné, le Président Eisenhower l'annonça publiquement.

J. nie qu'il y ait un rapport quelconque entre l'évolution des relations politiques russo-américaines et la déclaration présidentielle. Par ailleurs, le problème n'aurait jamais été évoqué à Genève lors de la Conférence des Quatre Grands.

Vous avez lu la description du satellite tel qu'il est prévu actuellement. Il porte le nom officiel de MOUSE (Minimal orbital universal satellite of earth). Les observations qui pourront être faites grâce au satellite seront du plus haut intérêt, notamment quant au problème des radiations solaires, qui affectent le temps et les télécommunications, par exemple. Le lancement du satellite se fera au moyen de plusieurs fusées et sera préparé en collaboration avec le Département de la Défense. En revanche, sa fabrication sera entièrement entre les mains des civils. Avant le départ du satellite, des savants étrangers seraient probablement invités à l'inspecter et tous les renseignements techniques sur la composition et l'utilité de l'objet seraient publiés. On espère d'ailleurs en envoyer plus d'un et même peut-être toute une série.

J. a insisté sur le caractère purement scientifique, pacifique, "civil" de tout ce programme. Il est évident cependant que cette opération n'est pas sans avoir des as-

- 3 -

pects militaires graves comme le relève le commentateur militaire du "New York Times", Hanson W. Baldwin, dans un article du 2 août que je vous envoie sous ce pli.

Veillez agréer, Monsieur le Ministre, l'assurance de ma haute considération.

1 annexe.

Le Ministre de Suisse:



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# The Satellite—I

## An Evaluation of Plan for Project And Its Links to Military Research

By HANSON W. BALDWIN

Special to The New York Times.

Washington's announcement last week that the United States would try to launch a man-made orbital satellite into space in 1957 or 1958 foreshadows the coming era of intercontinental ballistic missiles and orbital reconnaissance vehicles.

The announcement took particular care to "accentuate the positive." It stressed the peaceful and scientific aspects of the project, the results of which, it was said, would be available to all nations.

But the scientific and peaceful applications of an orbital satellite are inseparable from the military applications; in fact, the orbital satellite project now can be planned seriously solely because of intensive military missile research and development since World War II. It is a direct step toward unmanned orbital reconnaissance vehicles and an indirect step toward the intercontinental missile.

The end product of all this research and development is not the space satellite, per se, but the so-called "I.B.M."—or intercontinental ballistic missile. This fearsome weapon, still on the drawing boards but probably a feasible finished weapon in seven to ten years, could cross the Atlantic in fifteen or twenty minutes.

### Similarity Noted

It would nullify all known systems of detection, interception and defense, and would expose—literally—virtually all the cities on earth to almost instantaneous destruction from these giant rockets, with thermonuclear warheads, plunging from the skies.

It is this vision—an apocalyptic one—that has been brought measurably nearer reality by the announcement of the earth satellite.

There is, indeed, a remarkable similarity between the announced plans for the satellite and what is known of the "I.B.M." project. The ballistic missile—a description applied to a missile without wings and shaped like a rocket or shell—faces many problems,

it is true, that the earth satellite need not overcome, but the latter is very clearly a step to the former.

In between man's first efforts to launch a tiny earth satellite and the ultimate intercontinental ballistic missile may come a practical orbital reconnaissance satellite vehicle. Such a satellite, circling the earth endlessly and equipped with radio and radar beacons, perhaps television cameras, radio relay station, and other electronic devices, might see—and report to its master station)—what "Bulganan had for breakfast." It would be the "master eye of the sky."

### 3 Missile Projects

The United States now has three announced intercontinental missile projects, but only one of them is planned as a ballistic missile.

The so-called S. M. (strategic missile) 62 Snark, under design and construction by Northrup, is planned as a type of long-range, high-speed pilotless aircraft, with automatic stellar navigation. It will have transoceanic ranges but subsonic speeds. This missile should be ready soon but numerous difficulties have been encountered and it does not have the high priority of a more advanced project.

The second intercontinental missile is the North American Navaho—S. M. 64, which—like the Snark—is an "air-breather." Neither the Navaho nor the Snark will get outside of the earth's envelope of air; they will utilize that air for their engines. The Navaho will be supersonic but will fly transoceanic ranges in straight and level flight, propelled by ram-jet engines.

The third and most important of the nation's intercontinental missile projects is Convair's gigantic and terrifying S. M. 65 Atlas—a true ballistic missile. Progress on this missile was at first slow and disappointing, but recently development has been speeded up greatly and various technological breakthroughs indicate a finished Atlas missile will be possible within the next decade.