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NATIONAL SECURITY DECISION
DIRECTIVE NUMBER 50

SPACE ASSISTANCE AND COOPERATION POLICY

I. INTRODUCTION

The fundamental aspects of National Security Decision Memorandum (NSDM) 187 of August 30, 1972, as they apply to today's international space activity have been reviewed. This review highlighted the substantial lead the U.S. enjoys in a wide variety of technological and space related areas -- a lead which should be maintained when considering and implementing any international activity or transfer governed by the following directive. Based upon this review, this directive which replaces NSDM 187 is approved and provides general guidance for U.S. space launch assistance; space hardware, software and related technologies assistance; and international space cooperation. Specific implementing guidelines are being issued by the Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs.

II. POLICY GOVERNING SPACE LAUNCH ASSISTANCE

In dealing with requests from foreign governments, international organizations or foreign business entities for assistance in launching foreign spacecraft, the following general policy guidance is provided.

U.S. launch assistance will be available to interested countries, international organizations or foreign business entities for those spacecraft projects which are for peaceful purposes and are consistent with U.S. laws and obligations under relevant international agreements and arrangements (such as Intelsat) as determined by the U.S. Government.

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III. POLICY GOVERNING SPACE HARDWARE, AND RELATED TECHNOLOGIES ASSISTANCE

In dealing with requests for the transfer of, or other assistance in the field of space hardware, software and related technologies, the following general policy guidance is provided.

Sales of unclassified U.S. space hardware, software, and related technologies for use in foreign space projects will be for peaceful purposes; will be consistent with relevant international agreements and arrangements and relevant bilateral agreements and arrangements; will serve our objectives for international cooperation in space activities (see Section IV); will contain restrictions on third country transfers; will favor transfers of hardware over transfers of technology; will not adversely affect U.S. national security, foreign policy, or trade interests through diffusion of technology in which the U.S. has international leadership; and will continue to be subject to the export control process. A special interagency coordinating group chaired by the Department of State will be established to consider special bilateral agreements covering the transfer of space hardware, software, and related technologies.

IV. OBJECTIVES OF INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION IN SPACE ACTIVITIES

The broad objectives of the United States in international cooperation in space activities are to protect national security; promote foreign policy considerations; advance national science and technology; and maximize national economic benefits, including domestic considerations. The suitability of each cooperative space activity must be judged within the framework of all of these objectives.

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