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On learning of the announcement of detailed Soviet plans for
the launching of an artificial earth satellite as part of the scientific
program of the International Geophysical Year, Dr. Detlev V. Bronk,
President of the National Academy of Sciences, which exercises supervision
over the scientific aspects of United States participation in the IGY,
made the following statement:

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"Soviet plans for the launching of an artificial earth satellite
as part of the International Geophysical Year program are of great interest
to scientists in the United States and throughout the world. We have
known for some time that the Soviet Union intended to undertake such a
program in connection with the International Geophysical Year. A formal
announcement to that effect was made last September by Soviet representatives
at a meeting of the international committee that guides the over-all planning
for the IGY (Special Committee for the International Geophysical Year).
Earlier references to such a program were made in general terms by Soviet
scientists in the summer of 1955 shortly after the formal announcement
of the United States scientific earth satellite program was made on
July 29, 1955 to the international IGY committee. We welcome the release
of further details on the Soviet plans at this time.

"Both the United States and the Soviet announcements followed
the recommendation of the international IGY committee that each participating
nation consider whether it could undertake such a program. The committee
based its recommendation on its conclusion that measurements of great

significance to science and of great potential benefit to humanity could be obtained with satellites.

"These first satellites are expected to be relatively small, each carrying no more than a few pounds of instruments. Furthermore, they will be limited in number and the effort to launch them will be expensive. Parallel programs in different nations can therefore multiply the amount that can be learned. That is why multiple satellite launchings for scientific purposes anywhere in the world would be important additions to the IGY efforts.

"Scientists in the United States look forward to further information about the launching of the Soviet satellite and to the opportunity to help determine its orbit and to make observations as it passes within range of our radio and optical tracking stations. Agreements were reached at the international IGY committee meeting last September that all IGY satellites will use a common frequency in the satellite transmitter that is necessary for radio tracking. Participants in the observation program for our own satellite include Argentina, Australia, British West Indies, Chile, Ecuador, India, Iran, Japan, Netherlands Antilles, Peru, and the Union of South Africa.

"Data obtained in the many scientific programs of the IGY will be placed in world data centers for use by all the interested scientists of the world. Data from the satellites launched by the United States and by the Soviet Union will add significantly to the total body of information gathered there for the benefit of the whole world."

The End