



To: Lyndon B. Johnson, Vice President; Chairman, Space Council

From: John F. Kennedy, President, United States of America

Subject: United States Space Program

Date: April 20, 1961

In accordance with our conversation, I would like for you (as Chairman of the Space Council) to be in charge of making an overall survey of where we stand in space.

1. Do we have a chance of beating the Soviets by putting a laboratory in space, or by a trip around the moon, or by a rocket to go to the moon and back with a man? Is there any other space program which promises dramatic results which we could win?
2. How much additional would it cost?
3. Are we working 24 hours a day on existing programs. If not, why not? Please make recommendations to me as to how work can be speeded up.
4. In building large boosters, would we put our emphasis on nuclear, chemical or liquid fuel, or a combination of these three?
5. Are we making maximum effort? Are we achieving necessary results?

I have asked Jim Webb, Dr. Weisner, Secretary McNamara and other responsible officials to cooperate with you fully. I would appreciate a report on this at the earliest possible moment.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John F. Kennedy".

John F. Kennedy
President, United States of America