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April 13, 73

Prof. S. Dhawan
Chairman ISRO
Indian Institute of Science
BANGALORE-12

Respected Sir,

SUB: PRESS, INDIAN SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE, SITE AND INSAT-
NEED FOR ISRO PUBLIC RELEASES

The alertness of the U.S. Press need not be explained to you. Three days ago, on April 10, 73, a reporter from the Aviation Week followed through with the Indian Embassy here about the TASS Report on the visit of Soviet team to India regarding the Indian Satellite.

2. Due to inadequate information, our Embassy person informed the reporter that the Soviet Collaboration was for a COMMUNICATION SATELLITE. Since we have already the SITE Experiment with the USA, and ~~as~~ as it is well publicised, such an information creates a Suspicious reaction that SITE is going to be cancelled! Fortunately, Mr. Ghate of the Embassy, who maintains close contact with us, informed the reporter to contact me.

3. Answering only to specific questions carefully, I explained to the reporter that the Soviet Collaboration Satellite is a Scientific Satellite with X-ray and particle experiments. I gave only general idea about orbit and weight class. His one main concern was whether US-India experiment was still on. "Very much so" was my reply. Also I clarified that INSAT was not a part of ATS experiment, but an Indian effort that has any relation to the SITE only in terms of general concept.

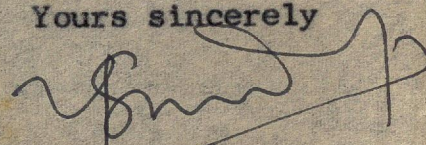
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4. RECOMMENDATION: My main point from the above episode is that it is important that ISRO keeps our major Embassies informed about our Programs so that wrong ~~the~~ news are not spread. It is suggested that some brief bulletins are published on our activities. In view of the fact that no ISRO personnel would be at GSFC from May 1973, for some time, technical information would be hard to get for the Embassy personnel. Since Science Attache is not yet formed, it may be good post these information to the attention of Mr. GHATE, First Secretary Economic Affairs, of the Indian Embassy here.

5. Lastly, I would like to suggest to you to kindly consider a publication such as SPACE INDIA on the lines of NUCLEAR INDIA to disseminate the ISRO activities to the public.

With respects and regards,

Yours sincerely



Y.S. RAJAN