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US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN SPACE: EARLY CONTACTS

Abstract

The first US-Soviet space cooperation agreement was negotiated between NASA Deputy Administrator Hugh Dryden and Soviet Academician Anatolii Blagonravov in 1962. The negotiations were a result of an exchange of notes between Soviet Premier Khrushchev and US President Kennedy following the flight of astronaut John Glenn. However, the US had made attempts to open negotiations on an agreement under the Eisenhower administration. Those attempts included meetings between Dryden and Blagonravov on the margins of various professional society meetings. This paper examines both the Eisenhower administration's policy initiative and the role of informal contacts at professional society meetings, like the International Astronautical Congress, in setting the path toward the 1962 agreement.