

Statement by the President

March 26, 1958 (excerpt)

President Dwight D. Eisenhower

In connection with a study of space science and technology made at my request, the President's Science Advisory Committee . . . has prepared a brief "Introduction to Outer Space" for the nontechnical reader.

This is not science fiction. This is a sober, realistic presentation prepared by leading scientists. I have found this statement so informative and interesting that I wish to share it with all the people of America, and indeed with all

National Aeronautics and Space
Act of 1958 (Unamended)
(Signed by the President
July 29, 1958)
Title I, Sec. 102 (b)

The Congress declares that the general welfare and security of the United States require that adequate provision be made for aeronautical and space activities. The Congress further declares that such activities shall be the responsibility of, and shall be directed by, a civilian agency exercising control over aeronautical and space activities sponsored by the United States, except that activities peculiar to or primarily associated with the

Special Message to the Congress
on Urgent National Needs,
May 25, 1961 (excerpt)
President John F. Kennedy

... First, I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to the earth. No single space project in this period will be more impressive to mankind, or more important for the long-range exploration of space; and none will be so difficult or expensive to accomplish. We propose to accelerate the development of the appropriate lunar space craft. We propose to develop

Address at Rice University in the
Space Effort

September 12, 1962 (excerpt)

President John F. Kennedy

... Surely the opening vistas of
space promise high costs and
hardships, as well as high reward.

So it is not surprising that some
would have us stay where we are
a little longer to rest, to wait. But
this city of Houston, this State of
Texas, this country of the United
States was not built by those who
waited and rested and wished to
look behind them. This country was
conquered by those who moved
forward—and so will space.

