

from things which are known to be or might be harmful to human life, such as excessive ultra-violet radiation, cosmic rays, and those solid particles known as meteorites. At the same time, however, it deprives man of the opportunity to observe many of the things that could contribute to a better understanding of the universe. In order to acquire data that are presently unobtainable, it is most important that scientists be able to place instruments outside the earth's atmosphere in such a way that they can make continuing records of the various properties about which information is desired. In the past vertical rocket flights to extreme altitudes have provided some of the desired information, but such flights are limited to very short periods of time. Only by the use of a satellite can sustained observations in both space and time be achieved. Such observations will also indicate the conditions that would have to be met and the difficulties that would have to be overcome, if the day comes when man goes beyond the earth's atmosphere in his travels.

The satellite itself will orbit around the earth for a period of days, gradually circling back into the upper atmosphere where it will eventually disintegrate harmlessly.

The National Academy of Sciences-National Research Council, which represents the interests of United States scientists in the International Council of Scientific Unions, is responsible for development of the scientific program to be undertaken by this country during the International Geophysical Year. The Academy-Research Council established the U. S. National Committee for the International Geophysical Year, composed of leading American scientists, to plan and carry out the International Geophysical Year program. This committee is assisted by twelve technical panels dealing with the various phases of the program of which the earth satellite is a part.

Special Federal appropriations being made in support of United States participation in the International Geophysical Year are being administered by the National Science Foundation which is coordinating Government interests in the over-all program.

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Attachment