



Smithsonian
National Air and Space Museum

Stewart Committee Collection

2002

National Air and Space Museum Archives
14390 Air & Space Museum Parkway
Chantilly, VA 20151
NASMRefDesk@si.edu
<https://airandspace.si.edu/archives>

Table of Contents

Collection Overview	1
Administrative Information	1
Scope and Contents.....	1
Biographical / Historical.....	1
General.....	2
Names and Subjects	2

Collection Overview

Repository:	National Air and Space Museum Archives
Title:	Stewart Committee Collection
Identifier:	NASM.1998.0010
Date:	1955-1958
Extent:	0.45 Cubic feet ((1 legal document box))
Creator:	Stewart, Homer
Language:	English .

Administrative Information

Acquisition Information

NASA Jet Propulsion Laboratory, transfer, 1997, 1998-0010, Public Domain

Restrictions

No restrictions on access

Conditions Governing Use

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Biographical / Historical

This collection is a complete set of copies of NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) Archives microfilm reel 10-3, which represents Dr. Homer Stewart's file on the so-called 'Stewart Committee.' This Committee was established during the summer of 1955 by Donald Quarles, Assistant Secretary of Defense, as the Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Special Capabilities with the specific task of picking between three contending proposals for the first US satellite. The committee chose the Naval Research Laboratory's Vanguard proposal to be the first American satellite project and after their decision, they continued in an advisory capacity regarding the project.

Scope and Contents

This collection includes Stewart's accumulated files covering the Committee's activities from Fall 1955 until its termination in May 1958, after the launch of the first US satellite. These papers give useful

insights into the secret deliberations on the progress of selecting the Vanguard proposal and highlights the considerable problems of that satellite project.

General

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Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

- Artificial satellites
- Astronautics
- Astronautics and state
- Project Vanguard
- Rockets (Aeronautics)

Types of Materials:

- Reports

Names:

- Naval Research Laboratory (U.S.)
- Stewart, Homer
- United States. Ad Hoc Advisory Group on Special Capabilities
- Vanguard (Artificial satellite)