

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- The House Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration of the U.S. Congress was told recently of plans by U.S. space scientists to launch huge inflatable aluminum foil balloons with future Vanguard and Explorer satellites, and possibly to float the balloons around the moon.

The Congressional group is studying the establishment of a civilian agency in the Government to oversee U.S. developments in space technology, similar to the National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA), which was established in 1915 to coordinate civilian and military research in aviation.

Dr. Hugh L. Dryden, director of NACA, told Congressmen the balloons could be used for lunar investigations. He said their orbit around the moon could be tracked by a high-powered telescopic camera, thus providing information on the mass of the

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Science: Astronautics

El Dr. Hugh L. Dryden (centro) director del Comité Nacional Asesor para Astronáutica, (NACA) cambia impresiones acerca de los globos satélites globos de chapa de aluminio, con los Representantes Overton Brooks (izquierda) de Louisiana y James G. Fulton (derecha) de Pennsylvania; a la izquierda está un modelo de cono de proa con un globo desinflado dentro. Los globos están ideados para inflarse automáticamente después de alcanzar la altura de la órbita. Al fondo, una esfera de 12 pies que será lanzada con los satélites Explorer del Ejército americano; a la derecha otro de 30 pulgadas que se lanzará en el Vanguard.

SPACE HEARINGS -- Dr. Hugh L. Dryden (center), director of NACA, discusses aluminum foil balloon satellites with Representatives Overton Brooks (left) of Louisiana and James G. Fulton (right) of Pennsylvania, after testifying at hearings of the House Select Committee on Astronautics and Space Exploration. At left is a model of a rocket nose cone with a deflated balloon enclosed. The balloons are designed to be inflated automatically after reaching orbital altitude. In the background is a 12-foot sphere, to be launched with the U.S. Army Explorer satellites; at right is a 30-inch balloon for launching in the U.S. Navy Vanguard program. (58-3118)



SCIENCE - ASTRONAUTICS