

# U.S. rockets, Japanese politics

## Industry pressure and U.S. help are forcing a change in Japan's independent space ambitions

A United States Government proposal to help Japan launch its own communications satellites could spell a significant turning-point in this Asian nation's space development.

(In Washington, White House officials confirm that an informal agreement is imminent, permitting U.S. firms to participate in the Japanese program, within certain specified limitations.)

**Japan up to now** has been trying to go it alone, but efforts so far have been somewhat on the scatter-shot basis.

The program bogged down last year, as rivalry flared between competing Government and academic circles, and as the Sato Cabinet pressed for and got unification of all space development efforts through a drastic reshuffle of the agencies concerned (SN: 2/10 p. 147).

Now the revamped program seems on the verge of getting a boost through the American offer (which Japan invited), including a suggestion that U.S. rockets be used. This, if accepted by the Japanese Government, would, of course, seriously compromise Japan's announced intent to develop and build all necessary satellites and launch vehicles at home. Nevertheless, there is considerable pressure on the Government, from Japan's embryonic space industries, to have the offer accepted.

The offer, made to Premier Eisaku Sato by U.S. Ambassador U. Alexis Johnson, is judged highly attractive in this country. There has been a quietly rising tide of criticism of Japan's independent ambitions in space research, based on frank skepticism toward the view that the nation possesses sufficient scientific and technological capacity to orbit, by itself, a communications satellite by the early 1970 target date.

**Japan's newly created** and recently funded Science and Technology Agency has its own ambitious plans to have 12 experimental satellites, including some communications types, in orbit between early 1971 and early 1975, along with 13 scientific satellites between this September and 1974, with the cooperation of Tokyo University.

But the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, joined by the Ministry of Postal Services and Telecommunications, the Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Public Corp., and the Japan Broadcasting Corp. (NHK) are insisting on a speed-up in the communications satellite launch program—which, they insist, re-

quires the help offered by the U.S.

The offer apparently stems from secret solicitation made last fall in Washington when a Japanese Government-backed delegation visited James E. Webb, director of the U.S. National Aeronautics and Space Administration, to inquire about possible help.

A power behind the group which seeks U.S. aid is Atsushi Oya, chairman of the special committee on peaceful utilization of space of the Keidanren, the Federation of Economic Organizations, an organization roughly similar to the National Association of Manufacturers in the United States.

Oya reportedly would streamline the nation's entire space development program into a simple communications satellite launching project, using all possible American assistance.

He would ask for U.S. technology to launch Japanese-made satellites, though he would reserve the Japanese Government-chosen Tanega Shima Island group in western Japan for Japan's own smaller-scale efforts.

**There are those** here who oppose accepting the American proposal until the Government can be satisfied that there are no strings attached.

In this connection, a Ministry of Education official cautions that a go-slow attitude is vital, since the reported U.S. offer would include a limitation protecting U.S. military rocketry secrets.

He also says the U.S. offer "apparently concerns only communications satellites and leaves untouched Japan's scientific satellite plans."

Ambassador Johnson's document reportedly asked for Japanese Government guarantees to prevent U.S. information from leaking to third countries.

The Ambassador presumably had in mind, as precedent, the fact that Mitsubishi Heavy Industries last year signed a technical agreement with North American Aviation. That pact carried three U.S. Government conditions attached to it, including guarantees against leakage of information.

The military information ban continues to be the difficulty. There is no secrets-protection law in Japan, so that the Government is quite powerless to give definite guarantees that secrets will be protected. In the prevailing political atmosphere, it is judged virtually impossible for Japan to enact such a law.

Stuart Griffin

## GRAPHIC SPEED FILE



### How To Eliminate Time Gaps

You store material easier and find things faster. Strong corrugated box type drawers give flat storage. Hinge lids insure extra protection.

Use outside cabinet. Save transfer time -- store & add replacements. Come in 8 sizes, use in any sequence. Drawers also in steel.

**FREE**

24 Page BOOKLET F2

Mailed Without Obligation

GRAPHIC SYSTEMS, Box 398, Yanceyville, N.C.

You like eggs? Bring out the best flavor with our **INSTANT EGG CODDLER**



Breakfast for busy people. Save time, get vitamins, protein. Internationally famous for delicious, appetizing eggs. Ideal cook & serve custard cup, too. Finest chemical quality, white crucible porcelain. Impervious to heat, flame. Complete with cover. 2 1/2 oz. capacity. Instructions.

2 for \$1.50 5 for \$3

HARRY ROSS

61-L Reade St.  
New York 7, N. Y.

## SEE MIRACLE OF BIRTH

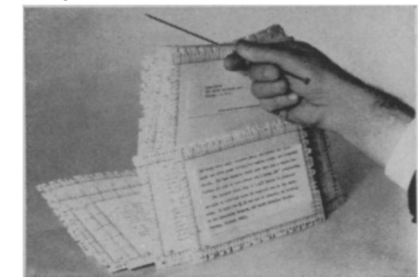
\$4.98 POST PAID WITH SIX QUAIL EGGS

You get the new clear plastic dome CHICK-BATOR with 6 Bobwhite Quail Eggs (available year-round) and Egg Hatcher's Guide Book. Complete — nothing else to buy. Send check or Money Order today.

G.Q.F. MFG. CO., DEPT. CL, BOX 152, SAVANNAH, GA.

## AUTOMATE YOUR FILES

for instant data retrieval



Now you can use the latest Punch Card System to keep your data in thousands of categories at one time. This inexpensive system provides extraordinary possibilities for classification and selective sorting and yet requires no expensive machines or complicated methods. Speeds up cross-filing, inter-correlation and data retrieval for anyone who must keep basic information on file for use in a variety of categories. Information can be written, typed, or actually pasted on the cards. The information is then coded onto each card by notching away that portion of the card between the hole and edge. The notches allow the coded cards to be separated from un-notched cards when a sorting rod is inserted in one of the holes of a group of cards. Since the notched cards have nothing to support them when the sorting rod is lifted upwards they will fall from the group—leaving the un-notched cards intact and separated. A sorting operation takes just a few seconds and you never have to put the cards back in any particular order. This system is widely used for scientific data, literature searching, new product files, market research, hobbies, etc.

The punch cards are 5" x 8" with 120 holes around the four margins. A standard code for the holes is printed on the cards which can be adapted to the widest variety of sorting operations. Each system consists of • 200 Punch Cards • Notching Punch • Sorting Rods • Coding and Sorting Instructions • Storage Box.

All for only **\$12.85**

Add 80¢ for postage and handling  
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

**DYNA-SLIDE COMPANY**

1566 Sherman Ave. Evanston, Ill. 60201