> times every 24 hours...offers incontrovertible proof of another Russian scientific achievement....
>
> We believe the people of this country have a right to know the facts about the relative position of the U.S. and the Soviet Union in this technological race which is perhaps the most significant single event of our times. They have the right to find out why a nation with our vastly superior scientific, economic and military potential is being at the very least equalled and perhaps being surpassed by a country that less than two decades ago couldn't even play in the same scientific ball park.[24]

In the same issue of *Aviation Week* an article surmised that success of the Soviet Sputnik would give new impetus to a Lockheed project for a satellite reconnaissance project called "Pied Piper" being developed for the U.S. Air Force. The project referred to was the one for which the AEC took the responsibility of developing nuclear energy as a possible source of auxiliary power. Repercussions at the AEC came quickly.[25]

"Pied Piper" was the code name for the advanced reconnaissance system for which the AEC was preparing a nuclear auxiliary power unit. Since the publicity in *Aviation Week* compromised the term, the AEC issued instructions on 27 October 1957 to all field offices and contractors involved in the AEC part of the program to discontinue using the code name. The unclassified title "Systems for Nuclear Auxiliary Power," or "SNAP," became the authorized reference for AEC's work on nuclear auxiliary power units.[26]

Technical work on SNAP devices went on, perhaps in an atmosphere of greater urgency—not so much due to immediate mission needs, but because of the challenge to American technological capabilities that Sputnik represented. The nation was caught up in self-doubt and questioning such as it had never known in the modern age. New institutions were being created to revitalize American science, especially space science. President Eisenhower, after presiding over a confident if turbulent era in the 1950s, was besieged for answers about the apparent decline in America's preeminence in modern technology.

In response to this concern, Eisenhower created a President's Science Advisory Committee in November 1957, with James R. Killian becoming the first Science Advisor in the Executive Office of the President. Killian described the atmosphere of that time as America strove to recapture lost prestige: