

Glennan suggested that the AEC begin to define the conditions for safe use of nuclear auxiliary power systems in space missions and propose the safeguards which would have to be provided. He assured McCone of NASA's willingness to work closely with the atomic agency on these matters.⁸

In August 1960, the two agencies formalized arrangements for working together more effectively on all aspects of space nuclear efforts. A "Memorandum of Understanding between Atomic Energy Commission and National Aeronautics and Space Administration" affirmed "that Mr. Harold Finger will serve as the manager of the joint AEC-NASA project office and Mr. Milton Klein will serve as the deputy manager."⁹ The new joint AEC-NASA Nuclear Propulsion Office reported to the Director of the Division of Reactor Development in the AEC and to the Director of Launch Vehicle Programs in NASA. As joint office manager, Finger wore two hats: he headed the joint office of nuclear propulsion and retained direction of the NASA office for space power. Finger thus exercised responsibilities for integrating AEC-developed RTGs into any NASA missions.

Both the early safety concerns and the organizational effort to bring the AEC and NASA together for joint efforts in the space nuclear field had enduring effects on the future of nuclear auxiliary power and the progress of the quiet space-nuclear technology. Safety concerns led to new organizational mechanisms for handling and anticipating safety problems as opportunities were sought to prove the usefulness and value of isotopic technology in space. At the same time, the new joint AEC-NASA Office, while it dealt with nuclear *propulsion*, prepared the way for merging the SNAP program with NASA projects. NASA's missions eventually came to lead in using RTGs for power in space.

The nuclear propulsion effort, designated Project Rover, now came under the single management of the new joint AEC-NASA office. The SNAP program continued as an AEC effort in the agency's Division of Reactor Development. When the AEC-DOD Aircraft Nuclear Propulsion Office (ANPO) was disbanded, its director, Armstrong, became Assistant to the Director of the Division of Reactor Development at AEC. Lieutenant Colonel G.M. Anderson, formerly SNAP project officer in ANPO, became chief of the SNAP Branch in the new division.

Before the momentum of the race into space increased, the SNAP program, particularly its quiet technology, was developing momentum of its own. At the