

As plans went forward for a second SNAP launching on another Transit in November, the political and environmental lessons learned were being applied. Seaborg addressed a letter to Vice President Johnson, who also served as chairman of the Space Council, lauding the Council's role in the June launch. He provided information about the new launch mission, and he said that he was anticipating that the Space Council would again play a critical role.<sup>54</sup> The Vice President replied that he was appreciative of this reference to the assistance of the Space Council in the June 29 launch and that the Executive Secretary would be asked to perform the coordination necessary for inclusion of a nuclear power source in the Transit-4-B launch.<sup>55</sup>

A second successful launching of a SNAP-3A, aboard a Transit-4-B navigational satellite, took place on 15 November 1961. The RTG team, this time with plenty of lead time and operating without the uncertainties of the pioneering launch, was ready at the launch pad. In the wake of this success would come a period of search by this small team for opportunities for the RTGs, which now had demonstrated their capabilities as power sources for space missions.