

PUBLIC PAPERS OF THE PRESIDENTS
OF THE UNITED STATES

Lyndon B. Johnson

*Containing the Public Messages, Speeches, and
Statements of the President*

1966

(IN TWO BOOKS)

BOOK I—JANUARY 1 TO JUNE 30, 1966



UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE

WASHINGTON : 1967

PUBLISHED BY THE
OFFICE OF THE FEDERAL REGISTER
NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS SERVICE
GENERAL SERVICES ADMINISTRATION



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Washington, D.C. 20402 - Price \$6.50

50 Message of Congratulations Following the Landing on the Moon of the U.S.S.R.'s Luna 9. *February 3, 1966*

Dear Mr. Chairman:

You and the people of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics are to be congratulated for the great success of Luna 9. Your accomplishment is one that can benefit all mankind. And all mankind applauds it. Your scientists have made a major contribution to man's knowledge of the moon and of space.

Sincerely,

LYNDON B. JOHNSON

[His Excellency Nikolai Viktorovich Podgorny, Chairman, Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, U.S.S.R.]

NOTE: The text of the telegram was read by Bill D. Moyers, Special Assistant to the President, at his news conference at 4:40 p.m. on Thursday, February 3, 1966, in his office at the White House. It was not made public in the form of a White House press release.

The unmanned Soviet spaceship had made a successful soft landing on the moon, the first of its kind. Following the landing telemetric signals were transmitted back to earth.

51 Remarks at the Swearing In of Roger Wilkins as Director, Community Relations Service. *February 4, 1966*

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen:

Seven years ago I had the privilege of introducing the first Community Relations Service measure in the Congress of the United States. I did so out of a lifelong belief that conciliation is always stronger than confrontation.

At that time I observed that such an organization would place heavy responsibilities upon the conciliator. He would have to be a very imaginative man. He would have to be a very understanding man. He would have to be a man of absolute integrity.

Such men, I told the Congress, are very difficult to find, but they are not impossible to find. We did find such a man in Governor LeRoy Collins, who I am proud to welcome here this morning.

And now I think we have found another such man in Roger Wilkins, who I am glad to have here to take the oath. Although he, as you can observe, is very young in years, Roger Wilkins has the experience and, I believe, the poise and the calm judgment which is demanded of a conciliator.

He has had extensive experience in social

welfare. He has had experience in dealing with the problems of developing nations. The very able and beloved Attorney General Katzenbach tells me that he has experience that will be very valuable to him as a practicing lawyer.¹ He has had now nearly 4 years' experience as a public servant. And above all, I believe that he has understanding.

Not long after I announced my intention of nominating Roger Wilkins to be the Director of the new Community Relations Service, he was asked whether the fact that Roy Wilkins was his uncle had anything to do with this appointment. Now I want it known that to be related to Roy Wilkins is no small honor.

There are few Americans that I believe have worked longer, harder, more intelligently, or more effectively for racial and social justice in our country, and I consider him not only one of my close counselors, but one of the great citizens of this generation.

But today we have met here in this White

¹The President would shortly thereafter recommend transfer of the Community Relations Service to the Department of Justice (see Item 59).