NYC 30 12 APR 61
KAUFMANN MILLER
FM DUNNING NATHAN COPY BROWN

1216P

AT THE RISK OF CARRYING COALS TO NEWCASTLE, WE WOULD LIKE TO GO ON RECORD WITH RATHER OBVIOUS POLICY LINE ON SOVIET SPACE SUCCESS: NOT ONLY WILL WE NOT MAKE ANY ATTEMPT TO MINIMIZE THIS TREMENDOUS ACHIEVEMENT, WE WILL ADD OUR OWN ADMIRATION FOR THE RUSSIAN SCIENTISTS AND MAJOR GAGARIN TO THAT EXPRESSED BY THE POLITICAL AND SCIENCE LEADERS OF THE ENTIRE WORLD. NUMBER OF STATEMENTS AVAILABLE HERE IS, OF COURSE, LEGION; NEWSPAPER EDITORIALS ARE LIKELY TO ADD FURTHER MATERIAL BY TONIGHT AND TOMORROW MORNING.

NEW SUBJECT: SINCE PRESIDENT KENNEDY'S PRESS CONFERENCE IS SCHEDULED FOR ONLY 4:00 PM NEW YORK TIME AND SINCE IT WILL NOT BE BROADCAST SIMULTANEOUSLY, WE WILL NOT HAVE MORE THAN USUALLY UNRELIABLE FIRST COVERAGE BEFORE ISSUING GUIDANCE NOTES. IN VIEW OF THE POSSIBILITY THAT PRES. KENNEDY MAY HAVE TO TOUCH ON CRITICAL ISSUES, PLEASE BE CAUTIOUS IN COMMENTING UNTIL WE HAVE A CHANCE TO ADVISE.

END MSG.