

INST 154

Apollo at 50

Discussion Questions

Session 10: Management of the Soviet Space Program

1. In the Soviet Union the space program and the ballistic missile program were run by the same organizations. How did this help the Soviet Union to achieve its objectives in space? How did it make it harder to achieve those objectives?
2. The complexity of organizational structures made it necessary for Korolev to create a Council of Chief Designers to cut across organizational boundaries in order to coordinate more closely than would otherwise have been possible. Similar things were done in the US space program. Why is it not possible to design organizations that make such workarounds unnecessary?
3. How did decision making in the Soviet Space program differ from decision making in the US space program? In what ways was it better? In what way was it worse?