



threat) that the “Battle for Mobile” would cause the public to turn against the idea of integration; instead it was a public powder keg. It was also thought, naively, that the unrest would simply end; instead it escalated. Within a week the National Guard and Army Talent Team Two were moved into Mobile.

After the public murder of two members of the Negro Defense League (a small team of black Talents) was caught on television and aired on all major networks, the issue exploded around the world. The Talents were gunned down while surrendering to Army troops that appeared to be siding with the segregationists. Protest at the U.N. by the Soviet Union over the “unconscionable treatment of America’s citizenry by an unjust government” infuriated and humiliated President MacArthur, and even the television networks turned against the White House for the first time.

After nearly 40 deaths, the burning and looting of millions of dollars of real estate, and with troops moved into the streets of nearly every major city in the United States, the “Battle of Mobile” came to an end. The invulnerable MacArthur presidency had suffered a crippling blow by focusing on the space race and the Cold War at the expense of domestic issues. President MacArthur assigned a task force to investigate the issue, but public opinion in all places except the Deep South had already turned. The brutal execution of the two men on the national news by federal forces was ingrained in the public’s eye, and there was no going back.

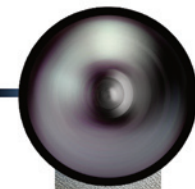
Vice President Eisenhower—who had supported his president unwaveringly—saw his hopes for the White House in serious trouble.

President Humphrey (1960)

Hubert Humphrey, a Democratic senator from Minnesota who had once pushed the Democratic Party on the issue of human rights, stepped forward to take the Democratic nomination for president. From there his ascent was unbroken. He trounced Eisenhower in the 1960 election.

Humphrey played up the race issue for all it was worth, pointing out the shortcomings of MacArthur’s segregation-neutral policies, and promised grand reform on par with the Emancipation Proclamation. President Humphrey was sworn in on January 11, 1960, with great public fanfare, and made good his promise by enacting the Civil Rights Act of 1960, outlawing segregation in the United States.

Humphrey found great support in the Teevees, who served as impromptu peacekeepers at hun-



dreds of schools in the south as integration began. The Teevees, who had worked diligently in the south for nearly a decade on relief missions during various natural disasters, found even pro-segregation southerners hesitant to use violence to oppose the issue.

Within four years, integration was complete in most areas of the U.S., and was judged an enormous success. By 1964 President Humphrey earned the nickname “Honest Hubie” and a reputation that would serve him well.

The First Men on the Moon (1962)

Captain Jason “Skip” Clark became the first human to set foot on the Moon on December 22, 1962. The Moon-lander *Aretmis 1*—nicknamed the “Crawler”—dropped in a 17-minute descent for which the world had been waiting since the announcement of *America*, a station set in lunar orbit 19 months before.

Along with Clark were two other Talents, First Lieutenant Douglas Timony and Lieutenant Mark Potorov (a Russian-American!). Clark spent nine hours on the lunar surface performing various experiments. President Hubert Humphrey congratulated the astronauts on their dangerous endeavor from the White House by telephone.

His first words on the lunar surface, impromptu as they were, were rebroadcast hours later to rapt audiences around the globe: “We came in peace for all mankind”. The American victory, at least in this chapter of the space race, was complete. The Soviets, focused as they were on Talent space flight, could not compete technologically.

For now, the race for space was over.

Space Escalation (1964)

Despite attempts by the Humphrey White House to come to the terms with the Soviets on a space treaty, intelligence indicated continuous Soviet movement in orbit and beyond. The Soviet Wild Talent space effort had led to the testing in 1963 of a “kinetic weapon” in the isolated reaches of Siberia. This weapon, nothing more than a four-ton space rock accelerated by Soviet technology to incredible speeds, hit Siberia with the equivalent force of 1.4 megatons. This terrified the American military for many reasons. The Soviets could launch a concerted non-nuclear attack on various points of the globe, decimating huge areas with no residual radiation. This weapon also circumvented nuclear weapons treaties.

Protests at the U.N. failed to phase the Soviets. Talks broke down in 1964 when America refused

to cancel its ambitions for a permanent Moon base in exchange for the Soviet Union pulling back from near-Earth-object testing.

President Humphrey was a prudent, broad-minded man, and saw the danger of Soviet sneak attack now as more real than ever. More money, support and personnel were granted to the American space program. Within two years America tested its first kinetic weapon launched from the Moon. *America 2*, the newly-minted ground station, was armed with a “rail gun” that could launch a ton or more of material at incredible speeds to hit precise targets on Earth. Humphrey told the American people: “Now, not only does America hold the moral high ground, we also possess the actual high ground. We will not make a first strike, but we will make the last one.”

The Collapse of the U.N. (1966)

A general call for the cessation of space armament was presented to the U.N. Security Council in 1966. Seventeen countries, including two charter nations (France and China), called for the cessation of kinetic weapons testing, but the Soviets and America would not back down.

The Soviet Dream In Space

The Soviet Union took a dramatically different tact than the U.S. in space travel. From the beginning they relied upon Wild Talents above all other methods to get into space. The focus of the Soviet project was Zvyozdny Gorodok, “Star City,” a huge facility outside Moscow which selected subjects with Talent powers as young as 13 and raised, trained and prepared them for a life as conquerors in space.

By 1963 the Soviets led the world in space-capable Wild Talents, men and women who could leave the atmosphere under their own power and survive. With the space escalation of the mid-1960s the Soviets moved huge payloads and orbital weapon platforms into Earth orbit through teleportation and odder means. Rocket technology, for a large part, was abandoned except for Russia’s ICBM deterrent.

The Russians focused on Earth and near-Earth orbit; few of their Wild Talents could wander much further. By the 1962 American Moon landing the Russians had realized their plans for the moon and mars were hopelessly out of date.

The Soviets focused their efforts from that point on defense, arming their orbital platforms and preparing drop-teams of space-capable Wild Talents that could instantly strike select targets around the globe.