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PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE ON SOYUZ FLIGHT

Q: Did the President send a message to General Secretary Brezhnev on the successful completion of the Soyuz flight?

A: Yes. The President extended congratulations to the General Secretary and to his colleagues who were instrumental in making the flight a success, particularly Colonel Leonov and Mr. Kubasov. The President wrote that the flight opened a "new page in manned space exploration." ~~He also added that he was confident that the~~

~~flight would lead to further manned space exploration.~~

~~The President also expressed his confidence that the flight would lead to further manned space exploration.~~



THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

7.11.75

TO: Ron Pessen

For Your Information: ✓

For Appropriate Handling: _____

RDL
Robert D. Linder

PRIORITY
DE RUWTDRA #0209 1921820
P 111807Z JUL 75
FM NASA JSC HOUSTON TEXAS

TO PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD
THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON, D.C.

SA

UNCLAS CB.

WE OF THE APOLLO CREW EXTEND TO YOU OUR VERY BEST WISHES FOR
A HAPPY BIRTHDAY AND A FORTHCOMING PRODUCTIVE AND PROSPEROUS
YEAR. OUR GOAL OF A FLAWLESS AND FRUITFUL APOLLO-SOYUZ MISSION
IS WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO PRESENT YOU AS OUR COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF.
THE APOLLO CREW:

BRIGADIER GENERAL THOMAS P. STAFFORD, COMMANDER
MR. VANCE D. BRAND, COMMAND MODULE PILOT
MR. DONALD K. SLAYTON, DOCKING MODULE PILOT
NASA LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON, TEXAS

BT



PRIORITY

DE RUMORHA #0165 194165W

P 131830Z JUL 75

FM GKSC/JOHN P DONNELLY ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR FOR PUBLIC AFFAIRS

TO HONORABLE MARGITA WHITE THE WHITE HOUSE WASH D C

SA

UNCLAS SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S TALK WITH ASTP CREW

FOLLOWING IS A LIST OF APPROPRIATE TIMES DURING WHICH WE WILL HAVE ACQUISITION OF SIGNAL WITH THE DOCKED APOLLO/SOYUZ SPACECRAFT ON JULY 17.

13:35PM TO 14:20PM (EDT). DURING THIS TIME PERIOD WE WILL HAVE VOICE AND VIDEO CONTACT WITH THE DOCKED SPACECRAFT AND THERE IS FREE TIME IN THE FLIGHT PLAN. AT THIS POINT, HOWEVER THE CREWS WILL NOT HAVE MADE THE FIRST TRANSFER BETWEEN SPACECRAFT. EACH CREW WILL BE IN ITS OWN SPACECRAFT AND THERE WILL NOT YET BE A U.S. CAMERA IN THE SOYUZ, WHICH MEANS THAT THE VIDEO WILL HAVE TO BE SENT DOWN THROUGH THE SOVIET TV LINK AND RELAYED TO THE U.S. FOR RELEASE.

15:10PM TO 15:55PM (EDT). DURING THIS ACQUISITION-OF-SIGNAL PERIOD THE CREW IS ACTIVELY INVOLVED IN DOCKING MODULE PREPARATIONS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES RELATIVE FIRST CREW TRANSFER AND TO THE INITIAL GREETING BETWEEN THE CREW COMMANDERS. FROM AN OPERATIONAL VIEWPOINT, THIS WOULD BE THE MOST DIFFICULT TIME FOR US TO ACCOMMODATE ADDITIONAL ACTIVITIES SUCH AS AN AIR-TO-GROUND CONVERSATION AND WOULD REQUIRE LAST MINUTE COORDINATION WITH THE USSR AND FLIGHT PLAN MODIFICATIONS. ALSO DURING THIS PERIOD THERE IS ONLY A VERY LIMITED TIME (3 MINUTES) DURING WHICH SOVIET TV WOULD BE AVAILABLE TO GET VIDEO OF THE COSMONAUTS.

16:45PM TO 17:25PM (EDT). DURING THIS PERIOD FOUR MEN (TWO ASTRONAUTS AND TWO COSMONAUTS) WILL BE IN THE SOVIET SPACECRAFT, AND ONE ASTRONAUT WILL BE ALONE IN THE APOLLO SPACECRAFT. IT'S ALSO A BUSY TIME FOR THE CREWS, WHICH WILL BE INVOLVED WITH EXPERIMENTS AND OTHER OPERATIONAL DUTIES.

18:15PM TO 18:50PM (EDT). EACH CREW IS IN ITS OWN SPACECRAFT DURING THIS PORTION OF THE DOCKED PERIOD. IT IS A GOOD OPPORTUNITY FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT BECAUSE THE CREWS HAVE ONLY HOUSEKEEPING DUTIES TO PERFORM AT THIS TIME. THIS IS THE LAST OPPORTUNITY FOR VOICE AND VIDEO TRANSMISSION ON JULY 17TH. AFTER THIS ACQUISITION PERIOD THE CREW WILL RETIRE FOR THE NIGHT BEFORE WE GET ACQUISITION AGAIN.

NEEDLESS TO SAY WE WILL MAKE WHATEVER ARRANGEMENTS ARE

*****RHSR COMMENT*****

SCOWRODT, MCFARLANE, WHITE



REQUIRED TO ACCOMMODATE THE PRESIDENT'S WISHES AND HIS SCHEDULE. FROM AN OPERATIONAL STANDPOINT, HOWEVER, WE CONSIDER THE TWO BEST OPPORTUNITIES TO BE THOSE THAT OCCUR FROM 13:35PM TO 14:20PM AND 18:15PM TO 18:50PM. WE WOULD RECOMMEND THESE AS THE TIMES THAT LEAST IMPACT MISSION ACTIVITIES AND OFFER MAXIMUM PUBLIC EXPOSURE.

WHILE THE LAST PASS WOULD APPEAR TO PROVIDE FOR MAXIMUM TV EXPOSURE IT IS, AS YOU KNOW, A PERIOD OF HEAVY LOCAL NEWS, WHICH MAY BE DIFFICULT TO CLEAR FOR NETWORK PURPOSES BECAUSE OF LOCAL ADVERTISING REVENUE CONSIDERATIONS.

PLEASE ADVISE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE WHICH OF THESE PASSES THE PRESIDENT WOULD PREFER. ONCE WE HAVE THIS IDENTIFIED WE WILL WORK WITH YOU TO DETERMINE THE BEST PERIOD OF TIME WITHIN THE SELECTED PASS. ASSUMING THE PRESIDENT PLANS TO EXTEND GREETINGS TO THE COSMONAUTS (WHO AS YOU KNOW SPEAK ENGLISH) WE SHOULD AS A COURTESY PLAN TO ADVISE THE SOVIETS IN ADVANCE OF THE TIME SCHEDULED FOR SUCH COMMUNICATION. ALSO REQUEST EARLIEST ADVICE ON HOW LONG THE PRESIDENT WILL WISH TO SPEAK TO THEM AND WHERE HE WILL TALK TO THEM FROM. (WE'VE HEARD THERE IS A POSSIBILITY HE MAY VISIT THE MISSION CONTROL CENTER IN HOUSTON FOR THIS PURPOSE AND IF THIS IS SO, WE'D LIKE AS MUCH ADVANCE NOTICE AS POSSIBLE TO MAKE APPROPRIATE ARRANGEMENTS.)

AS DISCUSSED BY PHONE YESTERDAY WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE RECEIVING IN ADVANCE A COPY OF THE PRESIDENT'S REMARKS FOR HIS VISIT TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM ON JULY 15 AM TO WITNESS THE SOYUZ LAUNCH. IF WE CAN OBTAIN AN ADVANCE COPY WE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO DISTRIBUTE IT AS SOON AS THE PRESIDENT MAKES HIS REMARKS IN WASHINGTON TO THE HUNDREDS OF NEWSMEN HERE AT CAPE CANAVERAL AND AT HOUSTON.

PLEASE CALL ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR NEED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

BT




THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

July 14, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: DONALD RUMSFELD

VIA: JERRY JONES

FROM: RED CAVANEY 

SUBJECT: THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION
AT THE TELEVISED LAUNCH OF THE
RUSSIAN SOYUZ SPACECRAFT
State Department Auditorium
Tuesday, July 15, 1975

Attached at TAB A is the proposed schedule for the subject event.

APPROVE _____

DISAPPROVE _____

BACKGROUND

The launch of the Soyuz Spacecraft by the Soviet Union marks the beginning of the first international manned space flight. The launch of the U.S. Apollo Spacecraft on Tuesday afternoon will complete the launch phase of this mission which has required three years of planning and development. Viewed by a worldwide live television audience, the two spacecraft will dock two days into the mission for a two day period, will reverse roles for docking on the fifth day, and will separate on the sixth day with the Soyuz craft returning to earth. The Apollo capsule will remain in orbit for four additional days of scientific testing before splashing down in the Pacific near Hawaii.



The television program at the State Department features live coverage from Moscow and is sponsored by NASA for their official guests to witness the Soviet launch. Beginning at 6:00 am, there will be continuous narration of the launch developments as well as the continuous showing of a 15 minute explanatory slide presentation. Following a successful "orbital insertion" the guests will be taken to the Cape Kennedy Spacelift Center to view the Apollo launch. Among NASA's guests are the United Nations Outer Space Committee, thirty-five foreign Space Agency heads, fifty members of the Diplomatic Corps lead by Ambassador Dobrynin and 180 U. S. Government officials.

Network television plans extensive live coverage from the State Department for the morning new programs. Portions of the State Department activities will be televised worldwide.



7/14/75
1:00 pm

PROPOSED SCHEDULE

THE PRESIDENT'S PARTICIPATION AT THE TELEVISED
LAUNCH OF THE RUSSIAN SOYUZ SPACECRAFT

State Department Auditorium
Tuesday, July 15, 1975

7:50 am The President boards motorcade on South Grounds.

MOTORCADE DEPARTS South Grounds en route
State Department.

[Driving time: 5 minutes]

7:55 am MOTORCADE ARRIVES State Department (C Street
entrance).

The President will be met by:
Robert Ingersoll, Deputy Secretary of State
James Fletcher, NASA Administrator

PRESS POOL COVERAGE

The President, escorted by Robert Ingersoll and
James Fletcher, proceeds to holding room (Room 1410).

7:57 am The President arrives holding room where he will
be met by Ambassador Anatoly F. Dobrynin.

OFFICIAL PHOTO COVERAGE

7:57 am Robert Ingersoll and James Fletcher depart
holding room en route auditorium.

7:59 am The President and Ambassador Dobrynin depart
holding room and proceed to announcement area,
and pauses for announcement.

8:00 am Announcement.



8:00 am The President and Ambassador Dobrynin enter auditorium and proceed to stage.

OPEN PRESS COVERAGE
ATTENDANCE: 600

8:01 am The President arrives stage and is seated.

8:01 am Welcoming remarks by Robert Ingersoll, concluding with introduction of Ambassador Dobrynin.

8:03 am Remarks by Ambassador Dobrynin.

8:06 am Remarks by James Fletcher, concluding with the introduction of the President.

8:08 am Presidential remarks begin.

LIVE WORLDWIDE TELEVISION

8:11 am Remarks conclude.

The President and the platform party depart state and are seated in the auditorium for launch program.

8:20 am Liftoff.

NOTE: The launch "window" extends from 8:20 am (EDT) to 8:26 am. If a liftoff is not achieved by 8:26 am, the launch will be postponed.

NOTE: Following the liftoff an animation will be shown which portrays the spacecraft's movement.

8:30 am Orbital insertion announcement.

8:35 am The President departs auditorium en route motorcade for boarding.

8:40 am MOTORCADE DEPARTS State Department en route South Grounds.

[Driving time: 5 minutes]

8:45 am MOTORCADE ARRIVES South Grounds.



July 15, 1975

Office of the White House Press Secretary

TEXT OF A MESSAGE BY THE PRESIDENT
TO US ASTRONAUTS AND SOVIET COSMONAUTS
PRIOR TO THE LAUNCHING OF THEIR SPACECRAFTS

To the Soyuz and Apollo Crews:

In a few short hours, you will be opening a new era in the exploration of space. Although others have gone before you, you will be blazing a new trail of international space cooperation. Never before have representatives of two countries lived and worked together in space. It is an historic occasion. I know you are proud to be playing such an important part in it.

As you make your final preparations for launching, I cannot help but think how far we have gone in space in such a short period of time. Less than two decades ago, Yuriy Gagarin and then John Glenn orbited the earth, realizing the dreams of Tsiolkovsky, Goddard and others who believed firmly that man could fly in space. Six years ago next Sunday, Apollo 11 brought the first men to the moon. This mission was followed by that of the Soviet automatic vehicle LUNOKHOD. Both brought back samples of the moon's surface, as a result of which our knowledge of earth's closest neighbor has expanded considerably.

Your flight represents another stage in man's efforts to further his understanding of his environment. It has already demonstrated something else -- that the United States and the Soviet Union can cooperate in such an important endeavor. Since the Apollo-Soyuz project was agreed to three years ago, crews, scientists and specialists of both countries have worked diligently and productively, and in a spirit of cooperation, to bring us to where we are today. I am heartened by the example of dedication and cooperation you have displayed. I am confident your efforts and example will lead to further cooperation between our two countries.

The peoples of the world will be following your flight and epic joint mission with interest and enthusiasm. On behalf of the American people, I commend you for your courage and vision and wish you Godspeed and good luck.

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THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON


ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL

TELEVISED LAUNCH OF USSR'S SOYUZ SPACE CRAFT

Tuesday, July 15, 1975

7:50 a.m. (60 minutes)

State Department

From: Henry A. Kissinger 

I. PURPOSE

To view the live televised launch of the Soviet Union's manned Soyuz spacecraft marking the beginning of the US-USSR Apollo-Soyuz joint space mission.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS ARRANGEMENTS


- A. Background: On Tuesday morning, you are scheduled to go to the State Department to view the televised launch of the Soyuz spacecraft from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet craft is scheduled to lift off at approximately 8:20 a.m. EDT. At 3:50 p.m. the Apollo spacecraft will launch from the Kennedy Space Center, Cape Canaveral. The two craft are scheduled to dock in space at 12:15 p.m. EDT on July 17 and to remain docked until 10:59 a.m. on July 19.

- B. Participants: Acting Secretary of State Ingersoll, NASA Administrator Fletcher and Soviet Ambassador Dobrynin will be present at the State Department ceremony. They will give brief remarks, preceding yours, prior to the televised launch. Princess Beatrix and Prince Klaus of The Netherlands and Ambassador Jankowitsch, Chairman of the UN Committee on Peaceful Uses of Outer Space will also be present.

- C. Press Arrangements: There will be full press and TV coverage.

ADMINISTRATIVELY CONFIDENTIAL



III. REMARKS

1. Ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary Ingersoll, Administrator Fletcher, ladies and gentlemen, it is a very great pleasure to be with you this morning on this most important occasion.
2. The launch of the Soviet Union's Soyuz (soy-USE) spacecraft, which we are about to witness marks the beginning of an epic venture in space. Shortly after three o'clock this afternoon, America's Apollo spacecraft will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral. These two voyagers in space will rendezvous two days from now, and circle the globe together.
3. This joint space mission is truly an historic occasion -- in my pre-launch message to the American astronauts and the Soviet cosmonauts, I told them that they are opening a new era in the exploration of space and blazing a new trail of international space cooperation. Never before have representatives of two countries lived and worked together in space.
4. This space mission also demonstrates that the United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to cooperate in a common endeavor of great importance and complexity. Since the Apollo-Soyuz project was agreed to three years ago, the crews, scientists and specialists of both countries have worked diligently and productively, and in a spirit of cooperation, to bring us to where we are today. I am particularly heartened by the example of dedication and cooperation displayed by the cosmonauts and by astronauts Stafford, Brand and Slayton.
5. Along with people throughout the world, I will be following the flight of these partners, in exploration, and on behalf of the American people, I wish both crews a most successful mission.

* * * * *

Two NASA information kits accompany this memorandum.



JULY 15, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
TELEVISED LAUNCH OF THE
RUSSIAN SPACESHIP SOYUZ

THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM

8:11 A.M. EDT

Ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary Ingersoll,
Administrator Fletcher, ladies and gentlemen:

Obviously, on this occasion it is a very great pleasure to be here this morning and to participate in a small way on this historic occasion. The launch of the Soviet Union Soyuz spacecraft, which we are about to witness -- and I hope my remarks conclude before it -- marks the beginning of a very epic venture into space.

As has been said, shortly after three o'clock this afternoon, America's Apollo spacecraft will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, and these two voyagers in space will rendezvous historically two days from now and thereafter circle the globe together.

It is my judgment that this joint space mission is a truly historic occasion.

In my prelaunch message to the American astronauts and to the Soviet cosmonauts, I told them that they are opening a new era in the exploration of space and the blazing of a brand new trail of international space cooperation.

Never before have representatives of two countries lived and worked together in space. They have a wonderful and unique opportunity, as a result.

This space mission also demonstrates that the United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to cooperate in a common endeavor of great significance, importance and complexity.

MORE



Since the Apollo-Soyuz project was agreed to three years ago, the crews, the scientists, the specialists, the technicians on both sides of both countries have worked diligently and productively in a spirit of cooperation, and they bring us to where we are today. They have done it with not only skill, but great success.

I am particularly heartened by the example of dedication and cooperation displayed by the cosmonauts and by our own astronauts -- Stafford, Brand and Slayton. They obviously represent the best of capabilities on both sides.

Along with the people throughout the world, I will be following the flight of these partners in exploration on behalf of the American people, and I wish both crews a most successful mission.

Thank you very kindly.

END (AT 8:13 A.M. EDT)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 15, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
TO
NBC TV
FOLLOWING THE TELEVISED LAUNCH
OF THE
RUSSIAN SPACESHIP SOYUZ

8:30 A.M. EDT

It was a wonderful display and we certainly congratulate the Soviet Union and their cosmonauts and the successful inauguration of this very historic flight.

And we wish them, as well as our own astronauts, the very best on this wonderful expression of cooperation, not only technically but otherwise, between our two countries.

END (AT 8:31 A.M. EDT)

MEMORANDUM

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

July 15, 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR: GENERAL ADAMS/WHCA
TERRY O'DONNELL
JERRY JONES
RON NESSEN ✓
EPS CONTROL
DICK KEISER
BOB SNOW/TSD
PRESS OFFICE

FROM: BOB MEAD *BM*

SUBJECT: PRESIDENTIAL TELEPHONE CALL
TO SPACE.

President Ford will telephone the orbiting astronauts in their space craft. This will occur on Thursday, July 17, 1975 at approx. 4:15pm.

A Network "pool" electronic camera will televise this event from the Oval Office. The designated network will do the necessary lighting for the event and work with WHCA on the telephone communications.

A list of network personnel will be provided. Helen Collins of my office will be in charge of the event and handle the arrangements between the agencies involved.

c. c. Dick Cheney
Helen Collins

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

EXCHANGE OF REMARKS
BETWEEN THE PRESIDENT
AND

THOMAS P. STAFFORD

DONALD SLAYTON

VANCE D. BRAND

ALEXEI LEONOV

AND

VALERIY KUBASOV

THE CREW OF THE

APOLLO-SOYUZ SPACE MISSION

THE OVAL OFFICE

757-3080
3:37 P.M. EDT

THE PRESIDENT: Gentlemen, let me call to express my very great admiration for your hard work, your total dedication in preparing for this first joint flight.

All of us here in Washington and in the United States send to you our very warmest congratulations for your successful rendezvous and for your docking, and we wish you the very best for a successful completion of the remainder of your mission.

Your flight is a momentous event and a very great achievement, not only for the five of you, but also for the thousands of American and Soviet scientists and technicians who have worked together for three years to insure the success of this very historic and very successful experiment in international cooperation.

It has taken us many years to open this door to useful cooperation in space between our two countries, and I am confident that the day is not far off when space missions made possible by this first joint effort will be more or less commonplace.

We all look forward to your safe return, and we follow with great interest the success so far, and we look forward to talking with you on earth again, when you do end your flight.

MORE



General Stafford, Tom, now that you have had an opportunity to test the new docking system, do you think it will be suitable for future international manned space flight?

MR. STAFFORD: Yes, Mr. President, I sure do. Out of the three docking systems I have used, this was the smoothest one so far. It works beautifully.

THE PRESIDENT: About three and a half hours ago I sat here in the Oval Office and watched the docking procedure. It looked awfully simple from here. I am sure it was not that simple for the five of you.

Let me say a word or two, if I might, to Colonel Leonov. The docking was a critical phase of the joint mission.

Colonel, could you describe it, and would you describe the reaction of the crews on meeting in space after such a long preparation?

MR. LEONOV: Mr. President, I am sure that our joint flight is the beginning for future explorations in space between our countries.

Thank you very much for very nice words to us. We will do our best.

THE PRESIDENT: Colonel, I think you and the other four have done very, very well so far, and may I congratulate you and your associates on this great achievement.

Now, Dr. Slayton, Deke, you have had a very, very long record of distinguished service, preparing other astronaut crews for various space missions, and we are extremely pleased to see you on the crew of the first international manned space flight.

As the world's oldest space rookie, do you have any advice for young people who hope to fly on future space missions?

Deke, did you have a chance to hear my question?

MR. SLAYTON: No, sir, Mr. President, unfortunately.

THE PRESIDENT: Can I repeat it?

MORE

MR. SLAYTON: Tom just repeated it for me, sir.

Yes, I have a lot of advice for young people, but I guess probably one of the most important bits is to, number one, decide what you really want to do and then, secondly, never give up until you have done it.

THE PRESIDENT: You are a darn good example, Deke, of never giving up and continuing. I know it is a great feeling of success from your point of view to have made this flight and to be on board with your four associates.

MR. SLAYTON: Yes, sir.

THE PRESIDENT: Vance Brand, I know that you are still in the Apollo and holding the fort there. It has been my observation that the crews on both sides have worked very hard to learn either Russian on the one hand or English on the other.

Has this training period, which is so important, stood the test in the complicated procedures that all of you must execute in this very delicate mission?

MR. BRAND: Mr. President, I believe it really has. I think in a way our project and, in particular, the training that we have undergone has been sort of a model for future similar projects.

I think it has been a real pleasant experience to work on learning Russian and to be able to work with the cosmonauts, and I think we will have some ideas that would probably help people in the future on similar paths.

THE PRESIDENT: Thank you very much, Vance.

I might like to say a word or two to Valeriy Kubasov, the other member of the cosmonaut crew. I might say to him, as well as Colonel Leonov, I remember both of you on that enjoyable Saturday last September when both crews visited the White House and joined me in a picnic over in Virginia.

We flew from the White House over to this picnic just across the river. We had some crab specialties that I enjoyed, and I think you did.

I am sure you are having a little different menu, somewhat different food on this occasion. What are you having over there out in space?

MORE

MR. LEONOV: We get good space food. There is no Russian food, no Russian music, some juice, some coffee, and a lot of water, no beer.

THE PRESIDENT: Let me say in conclusion we look forward to your safe return. It has been a tremendous demonstration of cooperation between our scientists, our technicians and, of course, our astronauts and their counterparts, the cosmonauts from the Soviet Union.

I congratulate everybody connected with the flight, and particularly the five of you who are setting this outstanding example of what we have to do in the future to make it a better world.

May I say in signing off, here is to a soft landing.

MR. KUBASOV: Thank you very much.

MR. STAFFORD: Thank you, Mr. President. It certainly has been an honor to serve the country and work here.

THE PRESIDENT: We will see you when you get back.

MR. STAFFORD: Yes, sir.

END (AT 3:45 P.M. EDT)