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TELEGRAM

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ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 NSC-05 SSO-00 NSCE-00 NASA-01
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DRAFTED BY EUR/SOV:SHUMPHREY:JLR
APPROVED BY EUR/SOV:SPOLANSKY
C - MR. SHINN
S/S - F. ORTIZ
WHITE HOUSE-TEXT RECEIVED FROM WH

083254

O 162241Z JUL 75
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA, US, UR

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT'S APOLLO-SOYUZ MESSAGES; DOBRYNIN VISIT
TO HOUSTON; APOLLO-SOYUZ FUNCTIONS IN DEPARTMENT AND AT
CANAAVERAL

REFS: A) STATE 165701 B) STATE 162485 C) STATE 163930
D) STATE 160735

1. PRESIDENT'S PRE-LAUNCH MESSAGE TO BOTH CREWS (REF A)
MADE PUBLIC HERE.

2. DEPARTMENT WILL POUCH TO EMBASSY, ATTENTION SCICOUNSELOR
SIGNED ORIGINAL OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF CONGRATULATIONS
TO GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV (REF B) FOR TRANSMITTAL TO
MFA AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SOYUZ FLIGHT (SCHEDULED
FOR JULY 21). IF ORIGINAL DOES NOT ARRIVE IN TIME FOR

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DELIVERY PROMPTLY AFTER SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF SOYUZ MISSION, EMBASSY AUTHORIZED TO TRANSMIT TEXT TO SOVIETS, ADDING THAT ORIGINAL WILL BE DELIVERED AS SOON AS RECEIVED. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM DEPARTMENT WHEN TEXT TRANSMITTED TO SOVIETS SO THAT WE CAN COORDINATE RELEASE HERE AND USE BY VOA. TEXT OF PRESIDENT'S LETTER READS AS FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT: DEAR MR. GENERAL SECRETARY: I HAVE BEEN FOLLOWING CLOSELY THE PROGRESS OF THE APOLLO AND SOYUZ FLIGHTS. THE SUCCESSFUL LINKUP OF BOTH SPACESHIPS AND THE SCIENTIFIC WORK CARRIED OUT BY THE CREWS DURING THE DOCKED PORTION WERE THE CULMINATION OF YEARS OF HARD WORK AND COOPERATION BY DEDICATED PEOPLE IN BOTH OUR COUNTRIES. THEY HAVE EVERY REASON TO BE PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS.

THIS FLIGHT HAS WRITTEN AN EXCITING NEW CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF MANNED SPACE EXPLORATION. IT IS PROOF THAT COOPERATION IN SPACE, INVOLVING THE EFFORTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF MORE THAN ONE COUNTRY, IS NOT ONLY FEASIBLE BUT DESIRABLE. I AM CONFIDENT THAT THE EXAMPLE OF THE APOLLO AND SOYUZ CREWS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY OTHERS AND WILL RESULT IN GREATER CONTRIBUTIONS TO SCIENTIFIC KNOWLEDGE AND BETTER INTERNATIONAL UNDERSTANDING. I AM EQUALLY CONFIDENT THAT THE APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT IS BUT THE FIRST STEP IN CONTINUING US-SOVIET COOPERATION IN MANNED SPACE ACTIVITIES.

PLEASE CONVEY MY SINCERE CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL OF YOUR COLLEAGUES WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL IN MAKING THE FLIGHT A SUCCESS, AND PARTICULARLY TO COLONEL LEONOV AND MR. KURASOV. THEIR PROFESSIONAL MANNER AND SKILL WERE OF THE HIGHEST ORDER. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE OPPORTUNITY TO EXTEND MY CONGRATULATIONS TO THEM PERSONALLY.

ONCE AGAIN, MY WARMEST CONGRATULATIONS ON THE SUCCESSFUL COMPLETION OF THE SOYUZ FLIGHT. SINCERELY, GERALD R. FORD
END TEXT.

3. EMBASSY REQUESTED TO INFORM MFA ASAP OF PRESIDENT'S PLANS FOR TELEPHONE CONVERSATION WITH BOTH CREWS DURING DOCKED PHASE OF MISSION (REF B). WE DO NOT KNOW WHEN THIS WILL TAKE PLACE.

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4. NASA INFORMED DEPARTMENT ON JULY 16 THAT AMBASSADOR DOBRYNIN HAS ACCEPTED INVITATION TO VISIT HOUSTON MISSION CONTROL CENTER AND WILL DO SO ON JULY 17 (REF C).

5. IN CONNECTION WITH APOLLO LAUNCH (REF D), AMBASSADOR AND MRS. DOBRYNIN, MRS. VORONTSOV, AND SCICOUNSELOR GUBKIN WITNESSED LAUNCH AT CANAVERAL ALONG WITH NUMBER OF OTHER HIGH-RANKING US AND FOREIGN OFFICIALS. WE UNDERSTAND THAT SOVIET ASSISTANT MILITARY ATTACHE CANCELLED OUT AT LAST MOMENT, AND DID NOT GO TO CANAVERAL WITH OTHER FOREIGN MILITARY ATTACHES. COUNSELOR SONNENFELDT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN WERE RANKING STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS AT LAUNCH. DOBRYNIN SPOKE BRIEFLY AT NASA SPONSORED CEREMONIES IN STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM MORNING JULY 15 AT WHICH PRESIDENT, DEPUTY SECRETARY INGERSOLL, AND NASA ADMINISTRATOR FLETCHER SPOKE BEFORE SOYUZ LAUNCH. DOBRYNIN ALSO HAD INTERVIEWS WITH TWO NETWORKS AFTER CEREMONIES IN DEPARTMENT, AND THEN, AT FLETCHER'S INVITATION, ADDRESSED KENNEDY SPACE CENTER OFFICIALS AND RAPIDLY DIMINISHING CROWD OF VIEWERS AFTER SUCCESSFUL APOLLO LAUNCH. KISSINGER



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