

The original documents are located in Box 13, “8/9/75 - Talking Points: NASA Distinguished Service Medal Presentation to Apollo-Soyuz Astronauts and Project Director” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN.....

TALKING POINTS:

NASA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL
PRESENTATION TO APOLLO -SOYUZ ASTRONAUTS
AND PROJECT DIRECTOR

SATURDAY, AUGUST 9, 1975

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TODAY, WE HONOR THREE MEN WHO HAVE RISEN 137
MILES ABOVE THIS EARTH, LOOKED DOWN AT ALL THE TURMOIL,
THE POLLUTION, THE CONFUSION, AND THE PROBLEMS -- AND STILL
DECIDED TO COME BACK. IT GIVES THE REST OF US HOPE.

WE ALSO HONOR THEIR PROJECT DIRECTOR WHO,
ALONG WITH THOUSANDS OF UNSUNG BUT FAR FROM UNAPPRECIATED
MEMBERS OF THE N.A.S.A. SPACE TEAM, HAVE MADE THIS ROUND
TRIP POSSIBLE.

YOU HAVE THE GRATITUDE OF AND ADMIRATION OF
ALL AMERICANS.

2. THE ENTIRE WORLD SHARED IN THE EXCITEMENT
AND ACHIEVEMENT OF THE APOLLO-SOYUZ MISSION. IT WAS A
GREAT TRIUMPH OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY BUT IT WAS ALSO
SOMETHING MORE.

3. THE APOLLO-SOYUZ FLIGHT WAS AN ENCOURAGING
REMINDER THAT -- IN AN ATMOSPHERE OF MUTUAL TRUST AND RESPECT --
MEN FROM DIFFERENT COUNTRIES AND DIFFERENT SYSTEMS CAN WORK
TOGETHER FOR A COMMON GOAL WITH COURAGE, INTELLIGENCE AND
SUCCESS.

4. ALTHOUGH THIS LESSON WAS LEARNED NEARLY 140 MILES
FROM EARTH, IT IS ONE THAT CAN MAKE A GREAT CONTRIBUTION TO A
BETTER, MORE PEACEFUL PLANET IN THE YEARS AHEAD. IF WE CAN
BRING THE SPIRIT OF APOLLO-SOYUZ TO BEAR ON THE MANY CHALLENGES
MANKIND FACES HERE ON EARTH, THE FUTURE FOR ALL OF US WILL BE
BRIGHTER.

5. ALONG THESE LINES, I AM PLEASED ABOUT PLANS FOR THE APOLLO AND SOYUZ CREW MEMBERS AND THEIR FAMILIES TO TOUR THE UNITED STATES AND THE SOVIET UNION TOGETHER. YOU WILL ENJOY MEETING THE PEOPLE IN BOTH COUNTRIES WHO FOLLOWED YOUR GREAT SCIENTIFIC UNDERTAKING OVER TELEVISION AND WHO PRAYED FOR YOUR SUCCESS AND SAFE RETURN.

6. TODAY, I AM HAPPY TO PRESENT TO THE THREE APOLLO ASTRONAUTS AND THE PROJECT DIRECTOR WHO HEADED THE VAST SUPPORT OPERATION HERE ON EARTH A SMALL TOKEN OF OUR COUNTRY'S GRATITUDE AND RESPECT -- THE NASA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

7. BEFORE PRESENTING THE MEDALS, I WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE AT THIS TIME THAT I INTEND TO NOMINATE GENERAL STAFFORD, THE COMMANDER OF THIS HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL MISSION, FOR PROMOTION FROM THE RANK OF BRIGADIER GENERAL TO THAT OF MAJOR GENERAL. I WILL SHORTLY SEND THAT NOMINATION TO THE CONGRESS FOR ITS APPROVAL.

8. IT IS A HIGH HONOR FOR ME TO AWARD THIS MEDAL TO FOUR GALLANT MEN WHO HAVE MADE US ALL PROUD TO BE AMERICANS. SO AT THIS TIME, IT WILL BE MY PLEASURE TO PRESENT GENERAL TOM STAFFORD, DEKE SLAYTON, VANCE BRAND AND DOCTOR GLYNN LUNNEY WITH THE NASA DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL.

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