

September 7, 1974

REMARKS
OF THE
PRESIDENT
AT A
PHOTO OPPORTUNITY
WITH
THE AMERICAN ASTRONAUTS
AND
THE RUSSIAN COSMONAUTS

Let me express my appreciation for your being here and I have met the American astronauts on several occasions.

I was in the Congress at the time that NASA was established, when it went from the old NACA, which was the National Advisory Committee on Aeronautics. It was changed to NASA. So, I have had a very deep and long interest in our space and aviation program. I think it is a very wonderful program both for the Soviet Union and the United States. And I know it has been a great program for the world as a whole.

Most Americans, and I suspect most citizens of the Soviet Union, do not appreciate the spin-off, the benefits that go to the people as a whole, whether it is medical, or scientific, or any one of the others.

So, what you have done in the Soviet Union, and what these American astronauts have done for our people, has far broader benefits than just being in space.

But, in addition -- and I think this is the most significant part of this gathering here today -- is the fact that you from the Soviet Union and these three astronauts from the United States are working together, working together for mankind as a whole, working together to show that different societies can work on scientific programs that are greatly beneficial to all.

So, I look forward to this -- when is it, July of 1975? We are all looking forward to it. We certainly wish you the very best and I think it will be successful because of the achievements and the accomplishments of you, as well as you, and we are proud of all of you.

We will proudly keep this in the White House and, as I watch the effort on television, I will be checking on who is where. (laughter)

May I invite the three of you, as well as the Ambassador, and Tom and the others, to join me if they would like. I am going out to the Alexandria Police Department "fish fry" and "crab feast", I guess it is, and you, too, Director.

I will tell you why I am going. After I was sworn in as President, we still lived out in our home in Alexandria, Virginia, and there were many, many visitors out there. And the Alexandria Police Department made a very special effort to give us some reasonable privacy. So they asked me to come out and to visit them at their "crab feast", and so I am going out. If you would like to come, the Ambassador and all of you.

Well, let's go into the Oval Office and wait just a minute and then we will take the helicopter out to the "fish fry".

Thank you all. Good luck and God bless all five of you. I will be watching as you are up there next July. Thank you very much.

Come on in, then, and we will take off.

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