



DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Washington, D.C. 20520

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May 23, 1975

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MEMORANDUM TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL BRENT SCOWCROFT
THE WHITE HOUSE

Subject: Possible High-Level and Other Public
Activities in Connection with the
Apollo-Soyuz Flight July 1975

The Department and NASA have been discussing possible activities, some of which could involve the President and General Secretary Brezhnev, for appropriately marking the Apollo-Soyuz space docking mission scheduled for July 15-24. NASA and Soviet officials have discussed in very general terms the question of high-level activities or exchanges of messages, with both sides making clear that decisions on appropriate recommendations would have to be made at the governmental level.

This memorandum summarizes activities which could involve the President and Brezhnev, as well as other high-visibility events, with our recommendation for action where appropriate. Decisions on possible activities involving the President and Brezhnev should be made as soon as possible if we are to have adequate time to work out arrangements with appropriate Soviet authorities and coordinate the practical details.

NASA has also submitted to the White House a memorandum (a copy of which is attached) listing opportunities--some of which do not involve Brezhnev--where the President could participate directly or indirectly in Apollo/Soyuz events.

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President Ford--General Secretary Brezhnev
Participation

NASA has suggested the following:

--The President and Brezhnev could utilize satellite TV directly to exchange good luck messages with both crews the night before the launch, and/or congratulatory messages after successful launches;

--TV and/or voice conversations by both Brezhnev and the President with both crews after the two space ships have docked; and

--an exchange of letters and/or symbolic gifts from the President and Brezhnev by the crews during the docked portion of the flight.

We believe it would be appropriate for the President to participate in such activities, and recommend that he do so. Live TV exchanges would give him and Brezhnev the opportunity to appear before world TV audiences.

We believe it would also be appropriate to have a brief congratulatory message from the President to the Soviet Cosmonauts and Brezhnev following the successful completion of the flight, and recommend that this be done.

We also recommend that approval be given to a proposal to arrange visits by both crews to each other's country shortly after the flight. Such visits would provide the President and Brezhnev with an opportunity to receive both crews, and would provide an excellent occasion for public appearances by the US crew before large Soviet audiences.

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High-Level Visit Exchange to Witness Launches

On May 19, the Soviets informed us their reaction was "negative" to our proposal for a Cabinet-level exchange of delegations, which would include on our side appropriate members of Congress, to witness the launches at each other's launch sites. The Soviets asserted that the presence of such delegations at the launches would add to "strains and tensions" associated with the launch.

VIPs at the US Launch Site

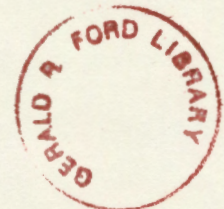
NASA has discussed with the Department and we have approved the tentative idea that NASA fly appropriate US officials, including members of Congress, and foreign space officials to Cape Kennedy to view the US launch. In addition, the Department's Chief of Protocol has proposed to the White House that the State Department fly Chiefs of Diplomatic Missions to the Cape for the launch. The Department is awaiting an NSC response on this latter proposal.

Symbolic Activities

NASA is discussing with the Soviets a number of symbolic activities--which would not involve the President or Brezhnev--to be carried out in connection with the joint flight. These include the transfer of a UN flag during the joint phase of the flight. (A Soviet suggestion for carrying Russian and English language copies of the Outer Space Treaty during the flight has been turned down by us as inappropriate.) A list of the symbolic activities being discussed between NASA and Soviet officials is attached.

In addition, the US Postal Service has worked out with Soviet officials plans for the issuance of a special postage stamp to mark the occasion of the joint flight.

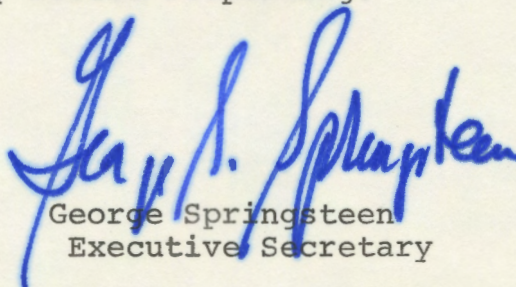
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Post Joint Flight Activities

Preliminary discussions have been held between NASA and Soviet officials on possible post flight activities, including a joint appearance and press conference at the UNGA this Fall. The Soviets have been non-committal on this idea. We recommend that any initiative in this area be left to the Soviets, and that any decision be postponed until after the flight.

In connection with possible suggestions for post flight joint activities in third countries, we think this should be approached with caution. We do not think it would be in our interest to convey an appearance of US-Soviet condominium in certain areas. Therefore, we recommend against taking any initiatives to propose joint visits by the crews to third countries. Should the Soviets suggest such an idea, we would want to consider the proposal carefully before responding.


George Springsteen
Executive Secretary

Attachment:

NASA Memorandum to the White House

