

THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN . . .

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

MEETING WITH US ASTRONAUTS AND SOVIET COSMONAUTS

Monday, October 13, 1975

12:30 p.m. (15 minutes)

The Cabinet Room

From: Henry A. Kissinger

*12*I. PURPOSE

Your purpose in greeting the astronauts and cosmonauts is to congratulate them personally for their successful mission in space and, by doing so, to call attention to the importance you attach to the 1975 joint manned space project for the contributions it has made to US-USSR space cooperation, the strengthening of US-USSR cooperation generally, and the efforts of all countries working together on projects that broaden human knowledge.

II. BACKGROUND, PARTICIPANTS AND PRESS ARRANGEMENTS

- A. Background: The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, set in the May 1972 US-USSR Agreement on Space Cooperation signed at the Summit meeting in Moscow, was successfully completed with the splashdown and recovery of the US Apollo spacecraft on July 24. The experimental flight successfully tested compatible rendezvous and docking systems which are being developed for future US and Soviet manned spacecraft. The mission included two days of joint activities, including experiments in space science and applications. The mission contributed to a rescue capability for future manned space flights and opened the way for broadened US-USSR space cooperation in the future. Significantly, difficulties with equipment in the pre-docking phase and in the recovery of the US astronauts underlined both the peril of manned space flight and the importance of human resourcefulness in overcoming technical failures.

As the final phase of the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, the two crews are jointly touring the US and the USSR. The Apollo crew and their families flew to the Soviet Union on September 20 for the first part of the joint tour. Both crews met with General Secretary Brezhnev in the Kremlin on September 22 at which time the General Secretary



stated that the joint flight was a vivid illustration of the improvement in US-Soviet relations, of increased trust and mutual understanding, and the embodiment of the striving of the peoples of the two countries for peaceful cooperation.

The subsequent USSR program took the joint crews and their families to Leningrad, Kiev, Volgograd, Novosibirsk, Sochi and Tblisi. It included a number of visits to factories, cultural, educational and scientific institutions and meetings with high-ranking municipal and scientific figures. The Soviet media gave very positive coverage to the tour, as it has the entire Apollo-Soyuz project.

On the US tour, the crews will travel from Washington to Chicago, Omaha, Salt Lake City, San Francisco, Lake Tahoe, Los Angeles, Nashville, Atlanta and New York. Their meeting with you is the highlight of their tour. Other important events include a joint House-Senate reception on October 22 and a reception in New York on October 25 by UN Secretary General Waldheim. The crews will visit educational and cultural institutions and will have meetings with a number of governors and municipal officials. Cosmonaut Leonov and Astronaut Stafford will appear on the Today Show on October 14.

Your greeting of the crews and their families today marks the concluding phase of your personal involvement with the Apollo-Soyuz mission. In September, 1974 you met at the White House with the crews during one of their training sessions in the US and they accompanied you to a crab feast in Alexandria. At the time of the actual mission, you:

- sent pre-launch messages to both crews;
- viewed at the Department of State the launch of the Soviet Soyuz on July 15;
- telephoned the crews shortly after their rendezvous and docking on July 17 and after their subsequent landing; and
- sent letters to General Secretary Brezhnev following completion of the Soyuz flight on July 21 and on the occasion of his meeting with the crews during their joint tour of the USSR.



B. Participants: See list at Tab A.

C. Press Arrangements: The meeting will be announced and the press will be permitted to attend and photograph the entire meeting.

III. TALKING POINTS

Introductory

1. I am very happy to welcome you to the White House again. I remember vividly our meeting a little over a year ago while you were still preparing for your mission -- we invited you to an old-fashioned American crab feast in Alexandria.
2. I am delighted to see your families here today. I do not believe enough can be said about the support and the contributions all of you make.
3. Deke, we are particularly glad to see you and very relieved at the good news about your health. (A lesion on his lung was found to be benign.)

The Apollo-Soyuz Mission

1. You have made history since our last meeting. I, along with millions of others, will always remember watching the live telecast of your Soyuz launch and then later the launch of the Apollo spacecraft, knowing that courageous men from different parts of the world were on their way to rendezvous in space -- a meeting full of meaning for the future exploration of space and for the cause of peace and cooperation here on earth.
2. When we last talked together, you were some 140 miles above the earth with your Apollo and Soyuz spacecraft linked. As I said then, this first manned international space mission represented not only an achievement for the five of you in space but also for the thousands of American and Soviet citizens on earth who worked together for three years.



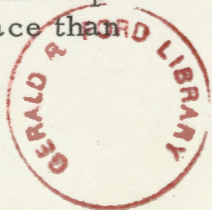
3. Man is still a newcomer in space and his ventures into this hostile environment remain very perilous. Proud that we were of your accomplishment, people everywhere were relieved to witness the safe return of the Soyuz and a few days later of the Apollo.
4. Your resourcefulness and talents were tested throughout the flight. Its great success attests not only to your remarkable ability and cooperation but also to the importance of human skill and judgement in spaceflight.
5. The flight has significance for all who believe that different countries can contribute to a better world by working together on projects that broaden human knowledge and extend man's capacity to cope with his environment.

Joint Tour Following Space Mission

1. Judging by your itineraries in both the USSR and here, you may decide that your joint tour in space was more relaxing and peaceful than your joint tour on earth.
2. On behalf of the American people, I wish to thank our Soviet guests for the fine hospitality and warm reception accorded the Apollo crew in the USSR.
3. Now it is our turn to show you something of America -- this time from ground level. I know your welcome will be as warm and enthusiastic as that given our astronauts.
4. Millions of Americans viewed your epic flight on television. It will be a great thrill for many of them now to be able to see you in person.
5. Your appearance together on these tours, as you work together in space, is an example for all the world of the concrete benefits of Soviet-American cooperation.

Future Cooperation

1. Your flight was more than just a handshake in space. It will help pave the way to joint space activities in the future which will help both our countries gain more insights into the utility of space than they could from separate programs.



2. The possibilities for cooperation are vast and can embrace not only the efforts of our two nations but those of many nations interested in space research.

Implications for US-USSR Relations

1. Your mission, fulfilling an objective set in the 1972 Agreement on Space Cooperation, marks an important step forward in US-Soviet relations.
2. Less than a week after the Apollo crew returned to earth, I met with General Secretary Brezhnev in Helsinki where we continued our efforts to further these relations.
3. Your mission in space and our meetings in Helsinki both served a common objective -- to expand mutually beneficial cooperation and build a more constructive relationship while working to relax tensions, negotiate our differences and frankly discuss our problems.
4. Just as you and your colleagues will be exploring the possibilities for future cooperation between our two countries in space, I attach the greatest importance to continuing our joint effort to promote cooperation and the cause of peace on earth.
5. You have my very best wishes for a most successful and rewarding tour of the United States.
6. You have my congratulations on a job well done.



PARTICIPANTS

Dr. and Mrs. James C. Fletcher, NASA Administrator

Mr. and Mrs. John P. Donnelly, Assistant Administrator for Public Affairs
Chief Negotiator and Co-Tour Director of both Russian and US portions
of the ASTP tours

General and Mrs. Vladimir A. Shatalov, Director, Soviet Cosmonaut Training
Program and Mr. Donnelly's counterpart as Co-Tour Director

General and Mrs. Thomas P. Stafford, Commander Apollo crew

Mr. and Mrs. Vance Brand, Apollo crew

Mr. and Mrs. Donald K. Slayton, Apollo crew

General and Mrs. Aleksey A. Leonov, Commander Soyuz crew

Viktoria Leonova, Daughter, 14

Oksana Leonova, Daughter, 8

Mr. and Mrs. Valeriy N. Kubasov, Soyuz crew

Katya Kubasova, Daughter, 11

Nicholas Timacheff, US Interpreter

Konstantin Samofol, USSR Interpreter

Ambassador and Mrs. Dobrynin and Granddaughter, Katya, 6

Captain and Mrs. Chester Lee, ASTP Director

