The original documents are located in Box D30, folder “Symposium on International Science Policy, Washington, DC, January 26, 1971” of the Ford Congressional Papers: Press Secretary and Speech File at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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It is with a sense of awe that I address this gathering. In this room, at this time, we have perhaps the greatest collection of brains ever assembled in one place at one time.

I have always been impressed by power—but not so much by political power as by brain power. This we have here today in abundance, and so this is a most auspicious occasion.

It is because we have all this brain power that I hold hope for the world—hope that battered as it is it will respond to our ministrations over a period of time. Time we need. I hope it is not running out on us.

We can make tremendous progress over time. This committee and the world scientific community have produced ample evidence of that—in terms of space exploration, advances in medicine, and great technological achievements.

I myself take pride in the fact that I was a member of the original space committee—the Select Committee of the House which helped create the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

It seems unbelievable it was less than 10 years ago that Yuri Gagarin completed the first successful space flight. It seems even more remarkable that it was a little more than five years ago that U.S. Astronaut Ed White walked in space and that just 18 months ago Neil Armstrong became the first human being to take a step on the moon.

With these prodigious accomplishments over a short span of time, it is small wonder that men everywhere—and particularly Americans—began to wonder whether anything was impossible of achievement.

I like to think that the two U.S. moon landings were made possible principally because of a partnership between the National Legislature and the scientific community.
We are continuing that partnership now as we attempt to solve the problems of our environment and the other great social problems of our times.

Ever since the catapulting of Sputnik into space, man has been compelled to realize that every one of us—even those in the remotest corners of our earthly globe—is closely linked to each other.

With the present awareness of environmental problems, we have come to know that we will either survive together or we will surely perish. This is as much true because of the assaults we have made upon our habitat as the means of universal nuclear destruction.

We know that environmental problems have no stopping place. They cover the earth. The poisons emitted by the industries of one country can pollute the air and the water of others. Even the oceans are vulnerable. And so it is most fitting that one of your topics here today is "International Cooperation in the Environmental Sciences."

We need to bring the talents of the scientific community to bear not only on air and water pollution but on all of the pressing social problems of our times. And this, too, is another of your discussion topics.

With your help I believe great progress can be made in restoring and preserving our environment and in making our cities livable again.

Let us join hands— we of the Congress and you of the scientific community, to remake our cities into centers where life can be a thing of beauty and pleasure.

I think we can do that if we all dedicate ourselves to the cause of public service—service to all the peoples of the world—so that life can be worthwhile for the disadvantaged as well as the privileged.

Welcome to these meetings—and now I leave you to your labors.
SYMPOSIUM ON INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE POLICY,
CONDUCTED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS, 10 A.M.
TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1971, IN ROOM
2318 RAYBURN HOB.

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LET US JOIN HANDS, WE OF THE CONGRESS AND YOU OF THE SCIENTIFIC COMMUNITY, TO REMAKE OUR CITIES INTO CENTERS WHERE LIFE CAN BE A THING OF BEAUTY AND PLEASURE.

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