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THE PRESIDENT HAS SEEN....

TALKING POINTS

ASTRONAUTS/COSMONAUTS MEETING

MONDAY - OCTOBER 13, 1975

I AM DELIGHTED TO GREET EACH OF YOU AGAIN -- THIS TIME ON EARTH. WHEN WE TALKED TOGETHER LAST JULY, YOU WERE MAKING HISTORY, SOME 140 MILES ABOVE THE EARTH WITH YOUR APOLLO AND SOYUZ SPACECRAFT LINKED.

AS A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION OF OUR MUTUAL EFFORTS, OUR ASTRONAUTS HAVE JUST COME BACK AFTER ENJOYING TWO WEEKS OF WARM HOSPITALITY IN THE SOVIET UNION. I AM SURE THAT THE WELCOME WHICH THE COSMONAUTS WILL RECEIVE AS THEY TOUR THIS COUNTRY WILL BE AS WARM AND ENTHUSIASTIC AS THAT GIVEN TO OUR ASTRONAUTS.

AS I SAID DURING OUR TELEPHONE CALL LAST JULY, THIS FIRST MANNED INTERNATIONAL SPACE VENTURE REPRESENTS 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. YOUR FLIGHT WAS MUCH MORE THAN JUST A HANDSHAKE IN SPACE. IT WAS THE BASIS FOR THE JOINT EXPLORATION OF SPACE AND THE JOINT UTILIZATION OF SPACE RESOURCES FOR THE BENEFIT OF ALL HUMANITY.

WHEN THE SPACE SHUTTLE BECOMES OPERATIONAL AT THE TURN OF THE DECADE, WE WILL BE ON THE THRESHOLD OF A NEW ERA OF SPACE ACTIVITY. THESE REUSABLE SPACE TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS WILL PROVIDE EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL MEANS TO UTILIZE AND BUILD UPON OUR CAPABILITIES IN SPACE. ALREADY, PROGRAMS OF COMMERCIAL AND SCIENTIFIC INTEREST INVOLVING MANY NATIONS ARE IN THE WORKS.

THE HISTORY BOOKS OF THE WORLD WILL RECOGNIZE YOU
AS PIONEERS WHO POINTED THE WAY TO A NEW ERA OF INTERNATIONAL
COOPERATION IN THE EXPLORATION OF SPACE. AS A TOKEN OF
YOUR JOINT MISSION, WE HAVE A RATHER UNIQUE PRESENTATION TO
MAKE TO THE COSMONAUTS. GENERAL STAFFORD ----