

September 7, 1974

Office of the White House Press Secretary

NOTICE TO THE PRESS

SOVIET COSMONAUTS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD:

Colonel Aleksey A. Leonov, the first Cosmonaut to walk in space, and Valeriy N. Kubasov, a civilian who was the flight engineer on the Soyuz 6 flight.

Major General Vladimir A. Shatalov, Commander of Cosmonaut training at Star City in Russia, will accompany the two cosmonauts.

The United States crew consists of:

Brigadier General Thomas P. Stafford,
Vance D. Brand, and
Donald K. Slayton

The Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, set in the May 1972 US-USSR Agreement on Space Cooperation signed at the Summit meeting in Moscow, is an experimental flight scheduled for July 1975 to test compatible rendezvous and docking systems which are being developed for future US and USSR manned spacecraft. The mission plan calls for Apollo rendezvous and docking with the Soyuz and two days of joint activities, including experiments in space science and applications. The benefits of the mission include contributions to a rescue capability for future manned space flights and broadened opportunities for US and USSR space cooperation in the years ahead.

The Soviet crew is en route to the Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas, for joint flight crew training. The US and Soviet crews last year had familiarization sessions at Star City in the Soviet Union and at the Johnson Space Center in Houston.

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