

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

JULY 15, 1975

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE
TELEVISED LAUNCH OF THE
RUSSIAN SPACESHIP SOYUZ

THE STATE DEPARTMENT AUDITORIUM

8:11 A.M. EDT

Ambassador Dobrynin, Secretary Ingersoll,
Administrator Fletcher, ladies and gentlemen:

Obviously, on this occasion it is a very great pleasure to be here this morning and to participate in a small way on this historic occasion. The launch of the Soviet Union Soyuz spacecraft, which we are about to witness -- and I hope my remarks conclude before it -- marks the beginning of a very epic venture into space.

As has been said, shortly after three o'clock this afternoon, America's Apollo spacecraft will be launched from the Kennedy Space Center at Cape Canaveral, and these two voyagers in space will rendezvous historically two days from now and thereafter circle the globe together.

It is my judgment that this joint space mission is a truly historic occasion.

In my prelaunch message to the American astronauts and to the Soviet cosmonauts, I told them that they are opening a new era in the exploration of space and the blazing of a brand new trail of international space cooperation.

Never before have representatives of two countries lived and worked together in space. They have a wonderful and unique opportunity, as a result.

This space mission also demonstrates that the United States and the Soviet Union are prepared to cooperate in a common endeavor of great significance, importance and complexity.

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Since the Apollo-Soyuz project was agreed to three years ago, the crews, the scientists, the specialists, the technicians on both sides of both countries have worked diligently and productively in a spirit of cooperation, and they bring us to where we are today. They have done it with not only skill, but great success.

I am particularly heartened by the example of dedication and cooperation displayed by the cosmonauts and by our own astronauts -- Stafford, Brand and Slayton. They obviously represent the best of capabilities on both sides.

Along with the people throughout the world, I will be following the flight of these partners in exploration on behalf of the American people, and I wish both crews a most successful mission.

Thank you very kindly.

END (AT 8:13 A.M. EDT)