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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

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OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

May 30, 1975

Honorable Henry A. Kissinger
Secretary of State
Washington, DC 20520

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BY LR NLF DATE 1/30/09

Dear Mr. Secretary:

This is to report recent discussions of possible future space cooperation with the Soviet Union.

I have just returned from a visit to the Baykonur launch site, and from a Joint Flight Readiness Review in Moscow which cleared the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project to proceed to its scheduled July 15 launching.

On May 21 I met with Academician V. A. Kotelnikov, Acting President of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, to discuss informally how the momentum which has been generated by cooperation in the Apollo-Soyuz flight might be preserved. Kotelnikov was replacing M. V. Keldysh, whose resignation as Academy President due to poor health was announced May 19.

During the discussion, I took the lead by suggesting possible opportunities in the areas of manned space flight, unmanned scientific missions, and coordinated environmental monitoring. The results are summarized below:

1. The Soviets gave very positive indications that they wish to continue cooperation in manned flight. They are favorably inclined to joint studies of Shuttle/Salyut missions and of what might serve as an ultimate goal, an international space station established either as a US/USSR project or in association with third countries. NASA/Soviet Academy staff-level consultations will proceed with a view to possible agreement later this year on appropriate studies. Meanwhile, the Soviets will consider the possibility of proposing experiments for Shuttle/Spacelab flights in cases

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affording opportunities not otherwise available to Soviet experimenters. They understand that Soviet cosmonauts could accompany experiments requiring inflight monitors.

2. The Soviets expressed interest in exchanging scientific experiments for flight on each other's spacecraft in cases involving unique flight opportunities as an extension of the 1971 Low/Keldysh agreement. (We have already accepted an invitation to fly US experiments on the next USSR biological satellite.) However, the Soviets are not ready to fly joint unmanned lunar and planetary missions, in particular lunar farside or Mars sample return missions. They consider these too demanding, costly, and likely to diffuse energies they prefer to concentrate on manned flight.

3. The Soviets will study possibilities for coordinated environmental monitoring missions and data exchange in such areas as earth energy balance, stratospheric ozone research, and search and rescue.

The Soviets were well prepared for the meeting and more explicit than ever before on what they are or are not prepared to consider. I have the impression that there has been a broad governmental decision, quite independent of any political questions relating to the Academy and its leadership, to try to build on the ASTP cooperative experience.

We agreed to hold a formal substantive meeting on future cooperation toward the end of this year. In the meantime, staff-level discussions will go forward to define an agenda, and perhaps to prepare some technical issues papers. As we pursue this matter, we will be coordinating with interested agencies and keeping you informed of progress.

Sincerely,
Original signed by
George M. Low

George M. Low
Deputy Administrator

cc: Deputy Assistant to the President for National Security
Affairs

Director, Office of Management and Budget
Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs

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