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Statements by Ambassador Dobrynin and President Johnson at the ceremony of the Outer Space Treaty (October 10, 1967)

OCTOBER 10, 1967

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF HIS EXCELLENCY, ANATOLY F.
DOBRYNIN, AMBASSADOR OF THE U.S.S.R.
TO THE UNITED STATES, AT THE CEREMONY
ON THE OUTER SPACE TREATY
THE EAST ROOM

AT 11:15 A.M. EDT

Mr. President, Mr. Secretary, Your Excellencies,
ladies and gentlemen:

It is my pleasure, on behalf of the Soviet Union, to deposit today the instruments of ratification of the first, in the history, international treaty of principles governing the activities of states in the exploration and use of outer space, including the moon and other celestial bodies.

This occasion has special significance, since it coincides with the tenth anniversary of the historic experiment of the launching of the first Sputnik.

Only 10 years have passed since the first experiment which has opened for the men a way to the outer space, and less than seven years since the first flight of the man in space.

However, within the spirit of time, extremely short compared with the history of civilization, the mankind has acquired hands which are able to stretch out millions of miles from this cradle and has learned to work with his hands; has acquired new eyes able to see what has always been hidden from man, and has acquired a new idea capable of uniting the thoughts of people all over the earth.

There is no doubt that in the not so distant future the world will see new breathtaking successes of space for us in the discovery of mysteries of the universe and in penetrating deeper and deeper into the infinite spaces of the solar system.

Ever increasing efforts by the various countries in the field of exploration in the use of outer space made it practically necessary to work out appropriate international legal principles.

These principles, now embodied in the present Treaty, for the preparation and conclusion of which my country took active part, are aimed at insuring peaceful activities of states in outer space for the benefit of all mankind.

This Treaty, which was unanimously endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly, represents a substantial step toward greater cooperation and understanding among states and people.

We hope that it will contribute to the settlement of major international problems still facing the mankind on our planet.

Thank you.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 10, 1967

OFFICE OF THE WHITE HOUSE PRESS SECRETARY

THE WHITE HOUSE

REMARKS OF THE PRESIDENT
AT THE CEREMONY ON THE OUTER SPACE
TREATY
THE EAST ROOM

AT 11:25 A.M. EDT

Mr. Secretary of State; Ambassador Dobrynin; Ambassador Dean; Excellencies; Distinguished Members of the Cabinet, of the Congress, and of the Supreme Court; ladies and gentlemen:

The Age of Space began just 10 years ago last Wednesday. I am sure Ambassador Dobrynin does not have to be reminded of that date -- nor do any of us.

The world will never forget the intelligence, the determination, and the courage that placed Sputnik into orbit, and launched man's great adventure into space.

That adventure has unfolded, during the past decade, with miraculous speed and scope. Man has probed the moon; he has reached out to other planets in the solar system. And he has done all of this in the spirit of peaceful exploration.

We are here today in the East Room to proclaim the intention of 84 nations that this exploration shall remain peaceful. By adding this Treaty to the law of nations, we are forging a permanent disarmament agreement for outer space.

-- It outlaws the weapons of mass destruction from man's newest frontier.

-- It forbids military bases and fortifications on the moon and other celestial bodies.

-- It prohibits the testing of weapons in space.

-- It means that when man reaches the moon, he will land in a field of peace -- not a new theater of war.

The spirit of international cooperation that has achieved this agreement is a beacon of hope for the future. It is a credit to all peoples. If we had sought for excuses to postpone agreement, we could have found them, I assure you, with the greatest of ease. Instead, we expended our efforts in achieving agreement -- and we have succeeded.

MORE

The Treaty was negotiated in less than six short months. For this, I gratefully thank our distinguished Ambassador Arthur Goldberg -- who represented our country -- and all the wise and constructive statesmen of the other lands who shared in that accomplishment.

The Senate of the United States gave its unanimous consent -- and I can assure all of our distinguished friends from abroad that this is not something that happens here every day.

That unanimous action testifies to the depth and sincerity of the American people's support for the purposes outlined in this Treaty.

This unity is not new. As the Secretary of State remarked, it was nine years ago, when I was serving in the Senate, I appeared at the request of our very able then President, President Eisenhower, before the General Assembly of the United Nations. Upon that occasion, among other things, I said:

"Until now our strivings toward peace have been heavily burdened by legacies of distrust and fear and ignorance and injury.

"Those legacies do not exist in space. They will not appear there unless we send them on ahead.

"To keep space as man has found it, and to harvest the yield of peace which it promises, we of the United States see one course -- and only one -- which the nations of earth may intelligently pursue. That is the course of full and complete and immediate cooperation to make the exploration of outer space a joint adventure."

That was our position nine years ago. It is our position now. I want to renew, today, America's offer to cooperate fully with any nation that may wish to join forces in this last -- and greatest -- journey of human exploration. Space is a frontier common to all mankind and it should be explored and conquered by humanity acting in concert.

We have urged cooperation

- in exploring the planets, or any portion of the solar system
- in the use of tracking facilities, so that our brave astronauts and cosmonauts may fly with much greater safety
- in mapping the earth
- in exchanging bio-scientific information
- and in international satellite communications.

MORE

We again renew these offers today. They are only the beginnings of what should be a long, cooperative endeavor in exploring the heavens together.

Whatever our disagreements here on earth, however long it may take to resolve our conflicts whose roots are buried centuries-deep in history, let us try to agree on this. Let us determine that the great space armadas of the future will go forth on voyages of peace -- and go forth in a spirit, not of national rivalry, but of peaceful cooperation and understanding.

The first decade of the Space Age has witnessed a kind of contest. We have been engaged in competitive space-manship. We have accomplished much, but we have also wasted much energy and resources in duplicated or overlapping effort.

The next decade should increasingly become a partnership -- not only between the Soviet Union and America, but among all nations under the sun and stars. I have directed the distinguished Secretary of State and the distinguished Director of NASA to bear this in mind every day in connection with their labors.

The hard business of foreign relations requires a certain optimism. One must be convinced that, in time, men and nations can direct their affairs toward constructive ends.

And it is with this optimism this morning that, here with you, I greet this Treaty. I see it as a hopeful sign that mankind is learning, however slowly, that wars are not inevitable; that national rivalry is not a permanent barrier to international understanding; and that a world of hostility and hate need not be the abiding condition of mankind.

Thank you very much.

END

11:31 A.M. EDT

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Press report of statement by Webb (head of NASA) regarding launch of
Zond 5 Soviet spacecraft (1968)

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WITH ZOND

WASHINGTON (AP)-ZOND 5, THE SOVIET UNION'S AUTOMATED MOON VISITOR, IS THE MOST SPECIACULAR RUSSIAN SPACE ACHIEVEMENT SINCE THEY STARTED IT ALL 11 YEARS AGO WITH SPUTNIK I, ACCORDING TO THE HEAD OF THE U.S. SPACE PROGRAM.

JAMES E. WEBB, CHIEF OF THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION, SAID SUNDAY THE MOON-AND-BACK FLIGHT SHOWS THE RUSSIANS CAN DO ANYTHING THEY WANT TO DO GIVEN A BIG ENOUGH BOOSTER.

WEBB CALLED IT "THE MOST IMPORTANT DEMONSTRATION OF TOTAL SPACE CAPABILITY UP TO NOW BY ANY NATION." HE SAID IN TERMS OF TECHNOLOGY IT WAS EVEN MORE IMPORTANT THAN SPUTNIK I, THE SOVIET EARTH SATELLITE WHICH PROVED MAN COULD LEAVE HIS HOME PLANET.

THE RUSSIANS WERE FIRST TO ORBIT A SATELLITE, FIRST TO WALK IN SPACE, FIRST TO LAND A PACKAGE ON THE MOON AND NOW, FIRST TO STEER A SPACESHIP AROUND THE DARK SIDE OF THE MOON AND BRING IT HOME.

ZOND 5 SPLASHED DOWN IN THE INDIAN OCEAN AFTER BLAZING INTO THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE AT 25,000 MILES AN HOUR SATURDAY NIGHT. A RUSSIAN SHIP RECOVERED THE SPACE CRAFT SUNDAY.

TO WEBB THE FLIGHT--WITH ITS PRECISION IN AUTOMATIC RENDEZVOUS, CALCULATION OF THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL, PINPOINT GUIDANCE TO SAFE RE-ENTRY AND HEAT SHIELDING--PUT NEW NUMBERS INTO THE EQUATION OF WORLD POWER.

IT DEMONSTRATED, WEBB SAID, "A CAPABILITY THAT COULD CHANGE THE BASIC STRUCTURE AND BALANCE OF POWER IN THE WORLD. ANYTIME YOU MASTER NEW TECHNOLOGY THE POWER EQUATION CHANGES."

JC1054AED SEPT 23

Re: Zond 5, launched 15 Sept 1968, circled moon 18 Sept 1968, returned to earth 21 Sept 1968 4/9