



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

APR 7 1975

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable William Proxmire, Chairman  
Subcommittee on HUD-Independent Agencies  
Committee on Appropriations  
U. S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

Knowing of your interest in the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, I felt you should know that the failure of the Soyuz 18 flight on April 5, 1975, was carefully observed by U.S. intelligence facilities. We have determined that the failure occurred in an upper stage of the launch vehicle and therefore poses no concerns for the safety of the ASTP mission. Furthermore, the successful return of the crew is evidence of the inherent safety characteristics of the Soyuz spacecraft, which supports our confidence in a satisfactory ASTP mission. As you may recall, the ASTP mission plan calls for a U.S. Apollo launch only after a fully satisfactory Soviet Soyuz launch; therefore the U.S. safety concerns focus on spacecraft rather than launch vehicle questions.

In our public statements, NASA is constrained to publicly available information, such as the TASS release (copy enclosed), and data that may be provided us by the Soviets directly. Because of the highly sensitive nature of the intelligence operations involved, there can be no public discussion of the extent of the technical information made available to NASA by the intelligence community.

Sincerely,

Concurrence via telephone  
(4:10pm) 4/7/75, SAYRE STEVENS, CIA

151 JCF  
James C. Fletcher  
Administrator

Williamson:jep:53970

Enclosure

DECLASSIFIED

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Classified by *Aug 1975*  
EX-100  
SC-100  
EX-100  
DECLASSIFIED BY *10/1/82*

SOYUZ FLIGHT DISCONTINUED AFTER MALFUNCTION  
LD062107 MOSCOW TASS IN ENGLISH 2106 GMT 6 APR 75 LD

(FLIGHT CONTROL CENTRE REPORTS)

((TEXT)) MOSCOW APRIL 7 TASS--THE FLIGHT CONTROL CENTRE REPORTS THAT ON APRIL 5 FIVE 1975, A CARRIER ROCKET WITH A MANNED "SOYUZ" SPACESHIP WAS LAUNCHED IN THE SOVIET UNION FOR CONTINUING EXPERIMENTS JOINTLY WITH THE "SALYUT-4" STATION. THE CREW ON BOARD THE SPACECRAFT CONSISTED OF COLONEL VASILY LAZAREV AND OLEG MAKAROV.

ON THE THIRD-STAGE STRETCH THE PARAMETERS OF THE CARRIER ROCKET'S MOVEMENT DEVIATED FROM THE PRE-SET VALUES AND AN AUTOMATIC DEVICE PRODUCED THE COMMAND TO DISCONTINUE THE FLIGHT UNDER THE PROGRAM AND DETACH THE SPACESHIP FOR RETURN TO EARTH.

THE DESCENT MODULE SOFT-LANDED SOUTH-WEST OF THE TOWN OF GORNO-ALTAISK IN WESTERN SIBERIA.

THE SEARCH AND RESCUE SERVICE BROUGHT THE COSMONAUTS BACK TO THE COSMODROME.

VASILY LAZAREV AND OLEG MAKAROV ARE FEELING WELL.

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