

THE WHITE HOUSE  
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May 17, 1972

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## MEMORANDUM FOR THE PRESIDENT

FROM: Henry A. Kissinger

EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT  
CIEP

SUBJECT: US-Soviet Space Cooperation

In NSDM 153, you directed NASA and State to explore with the Soviets the possibility of a US-Soviet agreement on the desirability of a joint, manned space docking mission, so as to provide you with the option of announcing this agreement during the Moscow visit.

NASA's Deputy Administrator, Dr. George Low, held detailed talks on the possible joint mission with representatives of the Soviet Academy of Sciences in Moscow from April 4-6. Both sides had earlier agreed that such a mission was technically feasible and desirable. NASA Administrator Fletcher now reports that Dr. Low's April mission was successful; he was able to reach agreement on the principles of managing, scheduling and conducting a joint space docking mission.

The Soviets have informed NASA that they would like to reach formal agreement on space cooperation, including the joint manned mission, during the Moscow Summit. Programatically, the US is ready to execute such an agreement, and NASA recommends that this be done.

The costs involved with the joint manned mission, which would be scheduled for 1975, are now estimated by NASA to be approximately \$250 million. This estimate has been developed in coordination with the Office of Management and Budget.

Clark MacGregor has taken soundings to determine the likely Congressional reaction to the proposed joint mission. These soundings indicate that the proposal would gain acceptance by a 3-1 or 4-1 margin.

The text of the proposed space agreement could be quite brief, along the lines of the draft at Tab A. I recommend that you approve the proposed

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US-Soviet space agreement, permitting the necessary steps to be taken prior to your Moscow visit to provide you with the option of announcing the agreement at the Summit.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

With your approval, I will forward a copy of this memorandum to the Director, Office of Management and Budget, with the request that he arrange to take such budgetary steps as may be necessary to provide for implementation of the agreement.

Approve \_\_\_\_\_ Disapprove \_\_\_\_\_

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DRAFT AGREEMENT

The United States of America and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics agree to a program of joint activities designed to enhance the safety of manned flight in space and provide a basis for possible cooperative space projects of mutual benefit.

Toward these goals, it is agreed that rendezvous and docking systems of future generations of manned spacecraft of both countries will be compatible, to permit rendezvous, docking, rescue, and possible joint experiments in space. It is further agreed that the first flight to test these future systems will be carried out in 1975, using specially modified Apollo-type and Soyuz-type spacecraft. In this flight the two spacecraft will rendezvous and dock in space, and cosmonauts and astronauts will visit in each other's spacecraft. This joint project will be conducted in accordance with the Summary of Results of the Meeting Between Representatives of the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the USSR Academy of Sciences held in Moscow on April 4 to 6, 1972.

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