

ASTP CREW MEETING WITH JSC EMPLOYEES
Houston, Texas
February 27, 1975

Participants:

Vance D. Brand, command module pilot
Christopher C. Kraft, Jr., Director, Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
Veneriy N. Kubasov, flight engineer
Aleksy A. Leonov, Soyuz commander
Vladimir Shatalov, Chief of Cosmonaut Training
Donald K. Slayton, docking module pilot
Thomas F. Stafford, Apollo commander

KRAFT Ladies and gentlemen. This morning our astronauts and our colleagues from Russia, the Soviet cosmonauts, have desired to get together with those of us here at the Johnson Space Center who have been working for the past few years in bringing about the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project. Many people, both here and in Russia, have had a great deal to do with bringing about the training of the cosmonauts and the astronauts and they feel that they would like to speak with you this morning on that subject. I'm very pleased that they were desirous of doing this. I think it begins to show that all of us are indeed very interested in the mission that is approaching. I think all of us here at - and on both sides recognize the importance of this mission to the future of space flight. It certainly is the first step in - of probably many to come, of space flights of international importance. And we are indeed fortunate, you and I, to be a part of that first step. I think in the future we will see many, many missions that will take us, not only to the usefulness of space around the Earth, but probably to the stars. And many of us, at least who are young enough, will live to see exploration of not only this solar system we live in, but the universe itself, by cooperative missions of the world rather than any one particular country. So it's a real pleasure to have these fine young men here this morning with us and I'd like to introduce General Stafford who will act as the MC this morning. Tom.

STAFFORD Thank you, Chris, members of the Johnson Space Center staff. This marks a very momentous occasion in that this will be the last time that the cosmonauts will be here in our joint training effort before the flight. Our group has one more flight, one more trip to the Soviet Union to complete the training, then we launch in July. Now, I know, looking out in the audience this morning, I see people I've worked with occasionally but sometimes I won't see you for 5 or 6 months, and the same way with the rest of our crewmembers. So this just gives us a chance just to get together and say thank you. I'd like to introduce you to the crewmembers. They all - all of us - would like to have the prime crew come up and say a few words. I'll start with the backup crew. It's commanded by Alan Bean, had two missions: Apollo 12 and second Skylab. Al. Ron Evans, who flew on Apollo 17. Backup ... Jack Lousma, who flew on the second Skylab. I've got a great support team. We'll have three people working as a communicator here in Houston, besides doing a lot of other work, and also we'll have one working the Control Center in Moscow. Next down the line I have Dick Truly, he'll be a launch through rendezvous CAPCOM. So Bobko, who will be primary one during the joint phase. Bob Overmeyer, who will be in the Moscow Control Center for us. And Bob Crippen. At this time I would like to have the other two crewmembers to come up. First Deke Slayton and then Vance Brand just to give you a couple of short words about the mission and what we plan to do. Deke.

SLAYTON That's the first time I knew what I was supposed to do this morning, Tom. Yesterday somebody said that I should stand up here for a couple of minutes and tell people to do good work and I thought about that for a few minutes and decided that was kind of a waste of all of our time. Because I've known most of you off and on for the last 16 years and that's the only kind of work I've seen any of you do. So all I can tell you there is, just keep doing what you're doing. We'll appreciate it. As far as discussing the mission, I might try to answer the most asked question I get, and that's what is the DF. That sounds a little undignified to begin with. It's supposed to be docking pilot, you can draw your own conclusions on some other choices of words there. But - I wasn't too sure for a while in our first trip out to Downey to look at the equipment. The docking module's that little black piece of gear there between the Apollo and the Soyuz, on this end. And in construction it really isn't black; it's just a cylinder with a - four little tanks strapped on the side of it. A very simple piece of gear. And I suddenly knew what my job really was, I'm a pilot of the world's fastest, highest, flying sewerpipe. However, I had to change my mind again this last week. We've been working with the Russians in the joint activities, and we have a few cameras onboard. In fact, we've got cameras taking pictures of people with cameras taking pictures of people with cameras all over this system. We discovered we had one camera taking pictures of nothing but the side of another camera. And my job is to move these cameras around from one place to another, get the cables unraveled, connect the disconnected, focus, change film, and all of that sort of thing. I guess they figure my experience on a Wisconsin farm uniquely qualifies me for shoveling things around. Anyway, I hope I'm successful at it because if I am, we would surely like to take all you folks along on this flight and that'll be the closest we can come to doing it and you'll all see it first hand. Thank you, very much.

BRAND Well, that's a tough act to follow, I'll tell you. I just think we've had a real good training session here the last 2 or 3 weeks. I - I know that you've seen us going back and forth between Building 35. We sort of disappear into Building 35, and no one never knows whatever happens. What we have in there, of course, is the mockup and we're - we have, with the Soviet crews, been practicing an awful lot the phase of the mission when we are docked together for the 2 days. The other phases, you know, we can practice off on our own. I must say incidentally that standing here it feels a little funny, for a change, to be standing up here talking to you when I'm used to talking to so many of you around a table and in meetings and just doing the things we do everyday. And, so, since I do have the chance to stand up here, I have a chance to say something that I never have said before. But I really appreciate the work that you're doing. And I think that - well, I'm really looking forward to this mission and I'm enjoying planning for it and I hope a lot of you are really

enjoying getting ready for it the way I am. It wouldn't be proper to be up here, also, without saying one or two words of Russian. Since, as you know, we are taking Russian almost on a daily basis. Well, when the - incidentally, when the Russians are not here. When they're here we're having a lot of fun throwing some phrases around with them, really, seeing whether or not we've learned anything during the period that we've been studying. So perhaps an appropriate thing would be (Russian) and just real quickly that means "Successful docking will mean continued success and cooperation in space in a peaceful way." Thank you, ..., Deke.

STAFFORD At this time, I have - want to have the opportunity to introduce General Vladimir Shatalov who's head of all cosmonaut training. Over a period of time, I have learned to know him as a fellow colleague, as we have, all the cosmonauts, in fact, been working together for these 2 years. They can fit right in our office very well. It's been a really great experience to work with them. General Shatalov has flown three flights for the Soviet Union. He now has his office in Star City where he heads all the cosmonaut training. I would like to introduce General Vladimir Shatalov.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Dear ladies and gentlemen.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER It's a great privilege to see here so many employees of Johnson Space Center.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER It's perhaps the greatest meeting today, during 2 years we have spent in our joint work.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER This great audience shows a real attitude to our joint work and cooperation.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER In this country, in the Soviet Union, and in other countries all over the world we see more and more attention is paid to our joint work.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Of course, we are very pleased and we understand the importance of our joint work fulfilled by us.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER For about 2 years, our joint work is going on; the work of our specialists, cosmonauts, and astronauts.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER This work is going on here in Johnson Space Center and in Moscow in the Manned Space Center named after Yuri Gagarin.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And most of you know Soyuz cosmonauts and also lend a great help, assistance to them in their work.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER You know them well. But perhaps as the audience is very large here, perhaps some of you do not know some of our cosmonauts.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER So I would like to introduce the crews of the Soyuz spacecraft.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER The first crew commander, Alexei Leonov. You know him perfectly well.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER He is the first man to dare to open the hatch and perform space walk. And he used airlock which is almost the same, resemble - which resembles the docking module that you will use in joint flight Apollo-Soyuz.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER It was about 10 years ago.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And the other member of the crew is Vladimir Kubasov.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER He participated in joint flight of three spacecraft.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And he was the first to do welding in space.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER He wanted to cook barbeque.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER As I understand, this flight they are going to do something like that.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER The backup crew, Filipchenko, Commander.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Nicolai Rukavishnikov.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER They were in space twice.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And you know that just recently, after the previous visit, they flew again into space and they piloted Soyuz 16.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Of course, we continue to put into life our national programs.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And you successfully continue your Shuttle program - Shuttle Program.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER In the Soviet Union, we continue our Salyut Program.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Just recently Soyuz 17 flight was accomplished.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And the crew successfully worked onboard of that spacecraft about 1 month.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Both, like the flight of Soyuz 16 performed by Alex Filipchenko and Nicolai Rukavishnikov, Soyuz 17 confirmed high reliability of those spacecraft.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And those flights showed good training standards and good knowledge of the hardware.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And the readiness of the people to do everything which is necessary for the joint flight of Soyuz and Apollo.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And in conclusion, I would like to say that we are very thankful to Doctor Kraft, Glynn Lunney.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And appreciate your work and the work of the whole family of the Johnson Space Center.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And we would like to say thank you to all the people of the Center.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Thank you for good assistance which was given to us during 2 years of our work here.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Thank you for cooperation and even for extra work after training hours; in the evenings, even on Saturdays, and sometimes Sundays.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And I - and I would like to say that we will do our utmost for our continuation of the joint efforts for future cooperation and for future programs and for future flights.

SHATALOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And before introducing again for short speech, Alexei Leonov and Kubasov, I would like to say once more, thank you for cooperation, good luck to you, good luck to your families, and only - everything good for you. Thank you very much.

SHATALOV Thank you very much.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Dr. Kraft and Dr. Lunney.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Our friends, comrades.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER You are surely expecting to hear from us pure English speech -

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - but somehow, today it's not going to work out -

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - primarily because of the fact that our lang - our English language is so saturated with technical terminology.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And basically because today we want to find as many warm and personal words as we can possibly find.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER This is the first time that we are meeting with you in this manner.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And it is the first time that we see everybody who is working on the - or many of those who are working in the space effort.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And this is the first time that we see everybody together, those people who are working with us constantly for the fourth time in our space effort.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And today, all I would like to say is a big sincere thank you from the bottom of our hearts for all of your help and cooperation.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER This is the fourth training session that we are having in the United States -

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - and also, the final one here, before the mission.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER There is only one meeting left in the U.S.S.R.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER I must say, that all four training sessions went very well -

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - that we received what we wanted.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And today, we know exactly the way we will be working -

LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER - and what we have to do in space.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER And this did not come all by itself.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER It came through your efforts -
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER - in 4 months and 16 days.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER We have to put our projects and our efforts into
being.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER And we fully realize the responsibility that is
placed on both the spacecraft; the Soyuz and Apollo -
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER - in order to complete this work.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER In order to thank you for all of your sleepless
nights -
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER - for your intense work.
LEONOV We are very grateful to you for what you are doing
for us.
LEONOV (Russian)
SPEAKER In our country there is a custom which is a very nice
one.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER
Woman's Day. Every year, on the 8th of March, we celebrate

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER That day, the woman is allowed everything.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER They are even allowed to argue with us about the fact that they are more important in the family and about their rights.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And we are always in agreement with them.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER On the 8th of March only, however.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER It's a beautiful spring holiday -

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - and always there is a question about the role of the woman.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER There is one question that we will be asked by our wives and the women in the U.S.S.R. about the role of the woman in the United States.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And I must say that it is a great one.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And because I consider that apparently the space effort was accomplished mostly by women; there are more of them in the auditorium today.

LEONOV (Russian)

SPEAKER However, according to our custom, I would like to give my best wishes to the women in the auditorium, here, for that 8th of March that's coming.

LEONOV Thank you very much. We will do our best.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Ladies and gentlemen, our friends.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Approximately 2 years ago, we met for the first time in order to start the preparation for a joint mission.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER The Soviet cosmonauts and American astronauts met in order to start the preparation for the joint flight in July of '75.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER During the past - during the elapsed time since then, we have had many meetings.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And in all of these - all of these meetings were in the preparation for that mission.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER All of these meetings and all of this work in preparation, when the five people will meet in the empty void of space.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER This is our last trip to the United States.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And we can say quite comfortably that the training that has taken place in these past few weeks have gone very well.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER We train not only on the approach, docking, and transfers -

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER - we have also trained on the joint activities which involved eating together, taking photographs, movie pictures, television broadcasts, and various other activities.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER We have one more meeting in the U.S.S.R.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER But even today, we can draw quite a few conclusions.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER We can see that most and all of the problems that have arisen between the cosmonauts and astronauts have been easily dealt with.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER I have primarily in mind, technical problems, such as transfers or the docking before that, or the approach before that.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And the fact that we have been able to take care of these problems, I consider extremely important.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER The second thing I would like to point out, is that a very friendly relationship has evolved between the astronauts and cosmonauts.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER All astronauts are very nice guys, and it is very pleasant for us to work with them.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And we have done everything in order to make it that for the astronauts - in the U.S.S.R. it would be just as easy to work as it is for us here.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And I sincerely hope that this friendly relationship is going to be maintained, also, after the mission.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER Also, besides the work with the astronauts, we have had every opportunity to get acquainted, and to learn to know the ways of life of the people of the United States.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER I must say, that it was a most interesting experience for us.

KUBASOV (Russian)

SPEAKER And I would like to say that I sincerely hope that this friendly relationship between our two nations are going to become more and more evident.

KUBASOV Thank you very much; good luck to you.

STAFFORD Thank you very much for those kind words General Shatalov, Colonel Leonov, ... Kubasov. At this time - One thing I might say, that I hope that in our total conversations back and forth, that I haven't diluted Alexei's learning the English language with my Oklahoma accent rubbing off on him there too much. At this time, we'd like to show you our crew patches. You know, all the crews, Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo, have always had an individual crew patch. At times I thought this was probably the most difficult part of the program, as Cris Kraft knows. But we've designed a crew patch, our crew Deke, Vance, myself. Also, we have included on it the names of Leonov and Kubasov. So at this time, for the first time to show the public, we'd like to show you the patch. Basically, you see the two spacecraft ready to dock there, and the only thing, I think is unique, we have the three white stars on the left side representing our three crewmen and the two gold stars on that side, with the red background Soviet flag representing the two Soviet crewmen. And the names on it there, just about ready to dock with the Sun in the background. And there will be

another press release on it, as far as all the symbolic effort on it.
But we just wanted to show it to you at this time. And again, we want to
thank all you people for all the great work you've done in supporting
this mission over the period of time. Thank you.

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