HOUSTON, TEXAS

APOLLO/SOYUZ TEST PROJECT
PRESS CONFERENCE
JOHNSON SPACE CENTER
March 19, 1973
4:00 p.m.

PARTICIPANTS:

Dr. Glynn S. Lunney, Technical Director, U. S. A.
Prof. Konstantin Bushuyev, Technical Director, U. S. S. R.
Major General Vladimir Shatalov, Cosmonaut
Dr. Aleksey Yeliseyev, Cosmonaut
Brigadier General Thomas P. Stafford, Astronaut
Mr. Alexis Tatistcheff, Interpreter
John P. Riley, Public Affairs Officer

PAO: Ladies and Gentlemen, if every one will come in we will get started, please. The participants in today's news conference are representatives of both the United States and the Soviet Union in the Apollo/Soyuz test project. I think several of these gentlemen are familiar to you. I'll identify them for you. From my right Dr. Glynn Lunney the technical director for project for the United States. Prof. Konstantin Bushuyev technical director for the Soviet Union, Major General Vitalmir Shatalov, veteran Soviet cosmonaut, next to him Dr. Alexsey Yeliseyev another veteran cosmonaut, Brigadier General Tom Stafford who will command the United States crew for this mission, and Mr. Alexis Datistcheff, the interpreter. We'll begin with some remarks from Dr. Lunney, followed by Prof. Bushuyev. Dr. Lunney.

Lunney: Ladies and Gentlemen, I'm pleased to be here today, we thought it would be useful to have a conference early in our meeting. Very clearly we do not have a lot of specific agreements yet on the contents of this particular meeting, but we thought it would be useful and helpful to you to meet some of our guests, especially since we do have two veteran cosmonauts in the group. Since last May when the agreement was signed to conduct this mission there have been five meetings, two of them major meetings of all the working groups, this being the second such full scale meeting. Again, although it is very early in this

soon even that contradictory factor will be eliminated. Of course, that's a joke. We have a great deal of work ahead of us and we will have many difficult technical problems to solve, but we are quite certain that we will be in a position to solve them all. During this meeting we are under the obligation to make a decision on many organizational and technical aspects of the Apollo-Soyuz mission. We came here with a large group of specialists which will permit us to solve a large number of problems. During this meeting and among the various other questions we are dealing with we decided to pay particular attention to problems of training of the crews of the space ships. This is a very big and very serious question that will take a great deal of our attention. We started to discuss this problem last October in Moscow when the American delegation had among its staff Astronaut Tom Stafford who showed a very deep understanding of these problems. We were very happy to find out that General Stafford had been appointed the commander of the first crew of Apollo in this joint flight. And from the bottom of our hearts we congratulate him and his colleagues. It is quite natural that the question comes up as to who will be in the crew of the Soviet ship. I must state here that - tell you that the composition of the Soviet crew for the spacecraft Soyuz has not yet been appointed. In accordance with the general plans agreed to this will be done in the very near future.

Yeliseyev: To what Dr. Lunney, Dr. Bushuyev, and General Shatalov have said, I would like to add only a few words. We came here in this delegation in order to discuss in addition to the question of the construction of the spacecraft the question of the training of the crews and also onboard documentation. For the first time in history this mission will feature the flight of two spacecraft manufactured in two different countries and manned by crews of these two countries. And the success of the mission will depend in a very significant manner on the way in which onboard documentation is prepared. The onboard documentation must assure the - must bridge the gap, the difference in languages and also must cover all possible situations that may arise. And from the very beginning we were able to see that the approach to this question of onboard documentation is the same in your country as it is in ours. We are very happy to meet the crew of the Apollo spacecraft. And for the time being we are working I think with great success and are quite sure that all the problems that stand befor us will be successfully solved. We are very happy that your crew consists of such experienced astronauts and are certain that the joint mission will be carried out successfully. Thank you.

Stafford: How do you do my dear friends (spoken in Russian). It is certainly a pleasure to work with General Shatalov, Cosmonaut

It will start with a visit by the Soviet crews to the United States this summer, and will be followed by a visit to the Soviet Union by the United States crews that are available this fall. And I would like for General Shatalov and Cosmonaut Yeliseyev to describe what we just talked about in general as far as mockup and simulators.

Shatalov: We have already come to an agreement as to the first stage of training which will take place in the United States and the Soviet Union. And about the program that will be followed during the visit in the United States of the Soviet cosmonauts. It will have to do with the mutual acquaintance and learning of the specialized terminology, familiarization with the systems which will be on board and have to be worked jointly, and a series of other occupations. At each successive meeting we will be agreeing when the next meeting will take place and will be listing the most important subjects that will have to be considered jointly by both crews. Questions of the stage of docking, the stage of crew transfer from one ship to another, stages of on board activities in both ships, when our cosmonauts will be guests in the American ship and vice versa the American astronauts guests in our ship. We will agree about the simulators and models that will be used in the course of training in the future.

further joint meeting on the subject before we decide. And let me ask Prof. Bushuyev to add any thoughts of his on the subject.

Bushuyev: I would like to add the following: The proposal of the Soviet scientists on the subject of scientific experiments to be made during this flight, as well as the proposal being made by the American scientists which we learned about when we came here now, are very lengthy, very numerous, and are considerably in access of what the crews can accomplish during the time of flight. Therefore, we have to make a choice. That selection will be made not during this meeting but at some subsequent meeting. In order to satisfy the maximum possible extent of what the scientists would like to have us do, bearing in mind the time available.

Query: I would like to ask our visitors, since they have been working rather closely with the American space program for some time now, if they have found any thing during this time which surprises them about our space program, which impresses them or which they find unique?

Bushuyev: We respect very much the work that is being done by our American colleagues in space. We feel, we believe that the Apollo program is really an outstanding event in the whole history of space exploration. We are in great admiration also of the experimental base of these space operations which we find here in Houston.

Stafford: Well, this problem is what we are working on and formulating the curriculum now. All we can say is that it will be approximately one month in each place.

Query: I would like to know if the Russian cosmonauts are required to spend much time signing their autographs.

Shatalov: As much time as American astronauts do. We found that out since we've been here.

Query: Prof. Bushuyev, excluding modifications that you might have to make for this particular mission, are the basic Soyuz spacecraft and launch vehicle that you will use already constructed and awaiting use, or if they are not, when will they be ready?

Bushuyev: Our program of preparing our Soyuz spacecraft for flight is going strictly in accordance with the schedule that has been agreed to with the United States. And there's no question about it that our ships will be ready in time for the joint mission.

Query: Will there be any training equipment exchanged between the two countries? Specifically simulators or large models?

Lunney: We do not intend to exchange anything of the size of a simulator. The best place to learn about Apollo is right here in Houston and the best place to learn about a Soyuz is in the Soviet Union. However, we have agreed that drawings of some of the modules would be useful and preliminary

the transfer procedures and the equipment that might be needed for desaturation when coming from the Soyuz to the Apollo pressure.

We have passed the point of that larger agreement some months ago and we are now down to very detailed discussions about the procedures associated with the pressurization and de-pressurization during the transfer sequence.

Query: Would you expect there to be American observers at the launch of the Soyuz?

Bushuyev: The question of the participation of American representatives in the start and control of the flight of Soyuz spacecraft has been agreed to - with us in a preliminary fashion. And whatever necessary American specialists will participate in the control of the flight of the spacecraft Soyuz. The participation of American specialists is being discussed on the basis of technical necessity. In that respect we have full complete mutual understanding.

Kunney: That discussion does not refer to news media. Just so there's no misunderstanding. When he says specialists, he's talking about flight control type people.

Query: Just further, so there won't be any misunderstanding will there be Americans at the launch of the Soyuz and in the Russian control center and where will that control center be by the way?