COOPER LEAVES GODDARD SPACE FLIGHT CENTER

Dr. Robert S. Cooper, Director of NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, Md., today announced his resignation, effective June 1, to become Vice President, Engineering, with Satellite Business Systems, McLean, Va.

NASA Administrator Dr. Robert A. Frosch said: "Dr. Cooper combines the highest order of technical competence with dynamic leadership and managerial innovation. The scientific and engineering communities that NASA serves will feel his loss keenly, as will all of us here who have worked closely with him during the past three years.

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"His drive, imagination and intellectual versatility have carried the Goddard Space Flight Center to the forefront of our national space research and technology institutions, and have earned him the respect and admiration of his peers. I am very sorry to see him leave us, but I am very pleased that Dr. Cooper will continue to exercise his talents in the field of practical space applications; we wish him well as he takes on new and demanding challenges."

Cooper was named Director of Goddard on July 1, 1976, and for the year before that, he had served as Deputy Director at the center. He came to Goddard from the Office of the Secretary of Defense, where he had been an Assistant Director for Defense Research and Engineering from August 1972.

Prior to joining Defense, Cooper spent six years as a manager and research engineer at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Lincoln Laboratory in Lexington, Mass. From 1963 to 1966, he was an assistant professor at MIT.

He received his B.S.E.E. degree from the University of Iowa in 1954; his M.S.E.E. from Ohio State University in 1958, where he was a Westinghouse Fellow; his Sc.D. degree in electrical engineering from MIT in 1963; and he was a Ford Foundation Post-Doctoral Fellow at MIT from 1963 to 1965. He served for two years in the Air Force.
Cooper is a member of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Physical Society, the Society of Sigma Xi, Tau Beta Pi and Eta Kappa Nu. In 1975, he was awarded the Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Award for his achievements at Defense.