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PRESIDENTIAL RADIO ADDRESS: SPACE
SATURDAY, JANUARY 28, 1984

Executive Registry

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My fellow Americans, three days ago, in my State of the Union message, I spoke to you about the challenge of America's space program, as one of four great goals for the 80's.

Today, I'd like to tell you more about that challenge -- about how we can maintain American leadership in space through the end of this century and well into the next -- and how, by doing so, we will serve the cause of peace and a better life here on Earth.

Since the dawn of the Space Age, our efforts have brought us across the aerospace frontier, to the moon, to the planets and beyond. For a quarter of a century we have moved steadily forward, extending our knowledge of the solar system, the galaxies, and the universe. The Space Shuttle, our most recent advance in space technology, now provides routine access to space. Just as the Yankee Clipper ships of the last century symbolized American vitality, our space shuttles today capture the spirit of our times.

We have proven that we can do much in space. We have also learned that there is much more we can do, things that are impossible to accomplish here on Earth. In the zero-gravity vacuum of space new metals and pure crystals can be manufactured for industry. Medicines and vaccines can be processed more efficiently. Research can be conducted that may some day lead to cures for arthritis and other painful ailments.

Mankind's potential has been expanded by increasing our understanding of the universe. We intend to put that potential to good use.

Our new space strategy charts a path of progress towards the goal of using space to make life on this planet better. The strategy has four elements. Combined, they add up to a plan to keep America and our friends strong and prosperous through the 1990's and beyond. Let me discuss each of them briefly.

The first is a commitment to build a permanently manned Space Station to be in orbit around the Earth within a decade. The Station will be supplied and serviced by the Space Shuttle. It will be a base for the kinds of scientific, commercial, and industrial activities I described a few moments ago. Like every step forward, it is not an end in itself but a method of positioning ourselves for even greater progress in the future. In this case, a space station will open new opportunities for manned missions to the moon and beyond.

International cooperation, the second element of our plan, has long been a principle of the United States space program. Just as our friends have been asked to join us in the Shuttle program, our friends and allies have been invited to join with us in the Space Station project. The tricentennial of the first German immigration to America was celebrated this year with a joint space effort. Jim Beggs, NASA's Administrator, will be visiting major foreign capitals to explain our new space strategy and outline the opportunities presented by the Space Station project.

The third part of our strategy focuses on encouraging American industry to move quickly and decisively into space activities. Obstacles to space investments will be removed and we will be making a concerted effort to spur private enterprise in space. We expect space-related investments to stimulate our economy, creating new jobs and greater economic growth.

Companies interested in putting payloads into space, for example, should have ready access to private sector launch services. Transportation Secretary Elizabeth Dole will be making certain the private sector is aware of the emerging opportunities, one of which will be commercial, unmanned space boosters. We're going to bring in to play America's greatest asset, the vibrance and vitality of our free enterprise system.

National security is the fourth element of our space strategy. Already our eyes and ears in space make us more secure, providing us with an early warning system against attack. Space systems open up new avenues of peace by giving us the means to verify our arms control agreements. Space may also provide us the chance to develop a purely defensive system that can offer protection without threatening others.

We Americans have always prided ourselves on the pioneer spirit that built this Nation. That spirit is a key to our future as well as our past. Once again, we are on a frontier. Our willingness to accept this challenge will reflect whether America's men and women today have the same bold vision, the same courage and indomitable spirit that built our great Nation.

The peaceful use of space promises great benefits to all mankind. It opens vast new opportunities for our industry and ingenuity. The only limits we have are those of our own courage and imagination.

When President John Kennedy challenged America to go to the moon, he said it would not be one person going, but an entire Nation putting him there.

Our space program has done so much to bring us together because it gives us the opportunity to be the kind of Nation we want to be -- actually, the kind of Nation we ought to be -- daring, creating, and dreaming. The choice is up to you.

Thank you and God bless you.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY STAFF

Note For:



25X1

(1) Discussed the intent of our comments with DoD staff. They agree & think it would be appropriate for a Sec Def/DCI discussion. They have responded to NSC staff that the discussion of the space strategy in this speech was premature but they did not otherwise comment.

(2) The intent of our changes is to decouple the speech from the space strategy & restrict it to items ^{already} covered in the state of the Union address.

INFORMATION



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civil space plan

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