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30 January 1984

Dear Astronaut:

This letter is an invitation to participate in the next step in the formation of the Planetary Congress of Space Explorers and an update of the activities re this effort to date.

As most of you know, Mike Collins, Ed Mitchell and I traveled to the USSR this past April to meet with four of the Cosmonauts to discuss the possibility of establishing an ongoing dialogue among those of us who have flown in space. This visit evolved from an earlier trip to Moscow which I made in the summer of 1982. In preparation for that first visit I discussed with a number of former Astronauts their interest in my exploring the idea with some of the Cosmonauts we had come to know. That response being affirmative, I met and discussed this concept with Leonov, Sevastianov, Yeliseyev, and Grechko. They were supportive and Leonov and I agreed to a short list of actions leading to the next step, i.e., a planning meeting in which a larger group from each side would participate. That planning meeting took place April 4-9, 1983, again in the USSR, with Mike, Ed and me meeting with Yeliseyev (now in the lead), Leonov, Sevastianov, and Kubasov. The results of the meeting are enclosed separately for your review.

As agreed in the April meeting with the Cosmonauts, the next step in building to the first "annual" meeting open to all who have flown in space (Planetary Congress of Space Explorers) would be a final planning meeting in the fall of 1983 in the US with five or so attendees from each group. This meeting was scheduled for the Thanksgiving weekend and plans were being finalized when the Korean Airliner incident occurred. In a conference call between most of the likely US participants at that time (Mike, Ed, Tom Stafford, Deke Slayton, and me; Gerry Carr was on the road) we agreed that it would be inappropriate to continue with the planned meeting and that it should be postponed. This message was communicated to the Soviets. A copy of the letter is enclosed.

We have pursued the issue of affiliation with an "umbrella" organization, a subject which was raised at the Astronaut briefing in Houston at the end of April. The possibility of affiliation had been considered from the beginning, but until the Astronaut briefing in April 1983, had been rejected on the basis that those participating should determine the directions taken in the shaping of the concept rather than some outside institution. Nevertheless, eventual affiliation with an established institution had remained a possibility. After the April briefing we decided to move immediately toward affiliation since concern was expressed that without such sponsorship it might appear as though all Astronauts, current and former, were endorsing the idea. Some felt that having a sponsor bring together such a meeting would reduce this misperception. After considering several alternatives we approached the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, the broader based (includes literature, history, philosophy, etc.) older sister of the National Academy of Sciences. Following exploratory

discussions in May 1983 and a meeting with the President and Executive Secretary in August 83, we were invited to present the concept to the Academy's Governing Council at their semi-annual meeting on November 9. The Academy took the proposal under consideration and established an advisory committee to offer advice and consultation to us on request and to recommend a course of action to the Academy at their next meeting. We are awaiting the Academy's nominees to the advisory committee at this time.

We are now at the point of reconvening the final planning meeting with the Cosmonauts to move ahead with the first annual Congress. The task at this final planning meeting will be to fill in the gaps between the agreements which came out of the first planning meeting and the necessary specifics of agenda, logistics, timing, etc., which must be decided to move ahead with the first Congress. I believe we should look toward a meeting in April to allow adequate time for pulling together a late summer 1984 Congress.

As we move ahead with both the planning meeting and the first Congress I would like to know of your interest and opinion on this initiative. Clearly it is controversial. After all, we are not exactly a coherent group. We differ in many ways; politically, socially, etc., both with the Soviets and among ourselves. But our intent is not political, except in the largest and highest sense of that word. Nevertheless many questions remain.

Respecting these issues, Mike and Ed and I consciously avoided specifically defining a purpose for the initiative in order to allow all those participating in it to contribute to such a statement. Ironically however, the lack of a stated purpose has caused uncertainty in some quarters and downright suspicion in others. Therefore, I am including herein a draft of such a statement, reflecting the thoughts of those currently involved, with the strong caveat that it should be a living statement, reflecting the interests and thoughts of all future participants in such a Congress.

After reviewing the historical documentation enclosed and considering the current statement of purpose, I would appreciate hearing from you at your earliest convenience. In order to provide specific information to meet our needs in moving ahead with the planning meeting and also to invite your full comment on this matter, I have enclosed a short list of questions. Comments beyond these specific questions are most welcome. Your answers will be held in privacy, except in aggregate, and even then used only in the context of setting the agenda, timing, and other logistics of the meeting to reflect your inputs.

Furthermore, if you support the concept of this initiative and would like to participate you are invited to the preplanning meeting on Saturday, March 3. Mr. Donald Kendall, Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board of PepsiCo, Inc., and one of the project supporters, is hosting us at his PepsiCo headquarters in Purchase, New York. Transportation and lodging can be arranged through Janet Grove at (415) 563-4731.

I appreciate your thoughtful comments,

Rusty Schweickart

RS/jg

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

There exists today a small group of privileged people who have had the direct opportunity to leave the planet and look back at it from space. For many of us this experience has had a strong impact on our thinking and outlook. For many people around the world the photographic record of this experience, in combination with what we have had to say about it, has altered their understanding of mankind's relationship to and responsibility for the planet and its environment. Many thoughtful people believe that mankind's use of space will be high on the list of factors shaping the Earth's future. One need only look at the use of space in the communication and information revolution today to exemplify this point.

Very few people in today's connected world are unaware of or untouched by space technology; whether directly through the use of communication satellites or by vicariously sightseeing aboard Voyager and its companions on their passage through the solar system. Clearly we are only at the beginning of the space age. Technologies which are emerging today from laboratories and drafting rooms are opening capabilities which will dwarf current accomplishments in both scope and import. They run the gamut from Space Colonies drawing their sustenance from extraterrestrial materials and solar energy, to outposts on Mars and the satellites of the outer planets, to the powerful weapons of science fiction, both offensive and defensive.

All of us understand that the world is shrinking; we are becoming, through our technologies and common needs, a highly interactive global society. We are all totally dependent on the Planetary environmental systems to sustain our very existence.

Ironically it is the very same technology which allows us to grapple with global environmental challenges and plan for fantastic and visionary futures which also permits, through misuse or miscalculation, the total destruction of civilization and perhaps all human life. And unfortunately, almost the whole world is focussed on the negative possibilities, to the virtual exclusion of any positive vision. Without a vision of the future, an image of hope, a possibility to strive toward, there is a diminished likelihood of it occurring. This vision of a positive future, a cooperative, planetary, life enhancing future is the challenge which we who have seen the planet from space, using the technology which can make it possible must address.

No group of people has had the privilege or the first hand experience of seeing this planet of ours as a single, beautiful, life-supporting home, save us; the Astronauts and Cosmonauts, a small society of space explorers.

Many have seen the photographs, and many may be more articulate or more wise than we. None, however, but we can speak and act from the direct experience of being outside of and looking back on the single home of all the life we know of in the Universe. And few command more public attention and respect for what they have done, whether deserved or not.

It is then the intention of this organization, The Planetary Congress of Space Explorers, to meet, confer, to speak and act from this unique experience. Our common experience being planetary in scope, we will approach our initiative from that perspective, respecting national interests and international relationships, while rising above their limits. Our purpose will be to apply our collective experience and perspective to the issues and possibilities raised by the new ability of mankind to circle and encompass as well as to leave the Earth.

QUESTIONS

1. Q. Do you support the concept of an international gathering of those who have flown in space? Do you oppose such an idea? Do you care? Please state your reasons for responding as you have.

2. We have modeled the approach to this dialog along the lines of the National Academy of Science's physicists' discussions (i.e., privately organized, funded, etc., while fully informing the official world of the State Dept., CIA, etc., of our actions). The intention here has been to maintain self-determination and control while being entirely open in our actions. This has worked well for the NAS group and has been supported and encouraged by these agencies in our instance as well.

Q. Do you support or oppose the concept of a private approach to this dialog? Again, why?

3. Q. Are you interested in participating in this initiative as it moves ahead?

A. At a pre-planning meeting of current and former Astronauts on 3 March 1984? This meeting will be held in New York and hosted by Donald Kendall, Chairman of the Board of PepsiCo, who has offered his facilities to us.

B. At the next and (presumably) final planning meeting with the Cosmonauts, here somewhere in the US in April?

C. At the first annual Planetary Congress of Space Explorers, nominally in late summer 1984, in Iceland?

4. Q. Are you interested in being updated from time to time on the progress of this initiative?

5. Q. Are there any of the specific "Agreements" from the first planning meeting (see enclosure) that you disagree with, that concern you or that raise specific questions in your mind? Are there other "Agreements" which you feel would be important to establish to help assure a productive result?

6. Q. Are there specific topics or subjects which (after reviewing the "Agreements" of enclosure) you feel should be considered for the agenda for the first Congress? Are there some which you feel strongly should be avoided?