

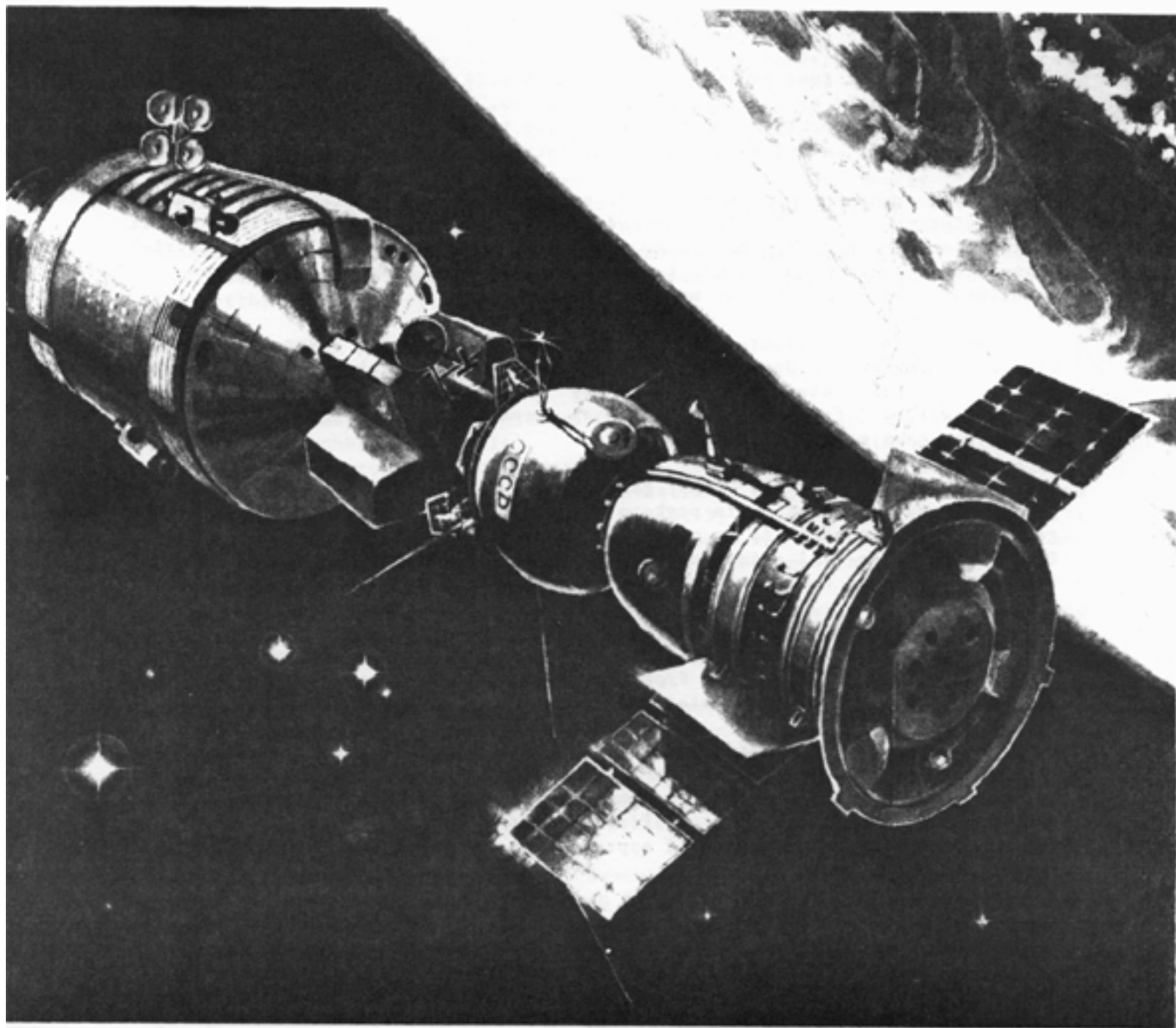
# *Astronaut / Cosmonaut Dialogues*



**PROGRESS  
REPORT**

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"The most valuable thing about the Apollo-Soyuz Test Project was that when the groups of both sides worked together on this flight, they not only got to understand each other better, but also found deep respect. I remember when we were getting ready for the flight, Tom (Stafford), Don (Slayton) and Vance (Brand) kept saying over and over again: 'Cooperation means friendship, and friendship means peace.' These words are still very true today."

General Alexei Leonov  
Soviet Commander of Apollo/Soyuz

## INTRODUCTION

Over the past four years, a period in US-USSR relations that the New York Times characterized as hitting an "all time low," a number of individuals who share a unique perspective of the Earth, have been meeting informally, shaping possibilities for cooperation and communication of an unprecedented nature.

Having seen Earth from a vantage point that blurs political differences, several former American Astronauts and Soviet Cosmonauts have, in the spirit of the historic Apollo-Soyuz linkup in space, continued to explore terrestrial connections that could lead to exchanging their common experiences and solutions to global issues of mutual concern.

Now a decade after that memorable hand-shake in space, the first Planetary Congress of Space Explorers will take place October 2-7, 1985, near Paris, to be attended not only by Soviets and Americans, but by representatives from other nations as members of a growing community of people who have orbited the Earth.

The potential for this group of individuals to influence the consciousness of our time is perhaps unique in the history of explorers. The goal of this initiative is to create a forum; the content and direction this forum might take will arise out of the special experience and perspective of the Astronauts and Cosmonauts themselves.

The following report offers (1) a brief survey of events leading to the establishment of The Association of Space Explorers, (2) a summary of the planning meeting held during September, 1984, in France, and (3) copies of the joint press release and related materials.

The culmination of this effort has been made possible by the faithful and persistent efforts of a number of dedicated people whose belief in the ultimate value of these dialogues has been expressed in time, money, and commitment, often in the face of official discouragement. To you we offer this report both as an expression of appreciation and as an invitation for your continuing involvement.

Russell L. Schweickart  
Co-Chairman  
The Association of Space Explorers

James L. Hickman  
Project Coordinator

## BACKGROUND

Spring 1982 Former Astronaut, Russell Schweickart (Apollo 9), and James L. Hickman, Executive Director of Esalen Institute's Soviet/American Exchange Program, held exploratory conversations with former Astronauts, members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences of the USSR, and representatives of both American and Soviet governments about convening a meeting between Astronauts and Cosmonauts.

July 1982 Schweickart, as Chairman of the California Energy Commission, traveled to Moscow to lecture on energy at the Academy of Sciences. During this trip, he met informally with several Cosmonauts and discussed the possibility of creating a forum for meetings between Astronauts and Cosmonauts. It was suggested that representatives from both groups meet for further exploratory talks.

January 1983 Plans for three Astronauts to meet with Cosmonauts in Moscow is postponed due to recent death of Soviet President Brezhnev.

April 3-8 Former Astronauts Michael Collins (Gemini 10, Apollo 11), Dr. Edgar Mitchell (Apollo 14), Schweickart, and Coordinator Hickman met in Moscow with Cosmonauts Alexei Leonov (Voskhod 2, ASTP), Alexei Yeliseyev (Soyuz 4, 5, 8, 10), Vitali Sevastianov (Soyuz 9, 18, Salyut 4), and Valeri Kubasov (Soyuz 6, 35, 36, ASTP, Salyut 5) and discussed the possibility of establishing an ongoing dialogue among people who have flown in space and agreed to work toward the establishment of an annual meeting.

April 30 Informal meeting of former and active Astronauts was held in Houston to discuss the proposal for an ongoing forum.

September Plans for four Cosmonauts to visit the United States were postponed due to the Korean airliner incident.

November At the invitation of the American Academy for Arts and Sciences, Schweickart and Hickman presented the history and status of the Astronaut/Cosmonaut project to the Academy's governing council, which agreed to act in an advisory capacity.

March 3-8 1984 Donald Kendall, Chief Executive Officer of PepsiCo Corporation, hosted a meeting of seven former Astronauts, plus Dr. Bernard Burke, American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and Coordinator Hickman, at PepsiCo World Headquarters in Purchase, New York. The participants discussed issues critical to holding the First Planetary Congress of Space Explorers, and agreed to convene a working group, together with several Cosmonauts, to finalize the agenda, logistics, and venue for the first formal session.

May The May planning meeting to be held in New York was postponed until September in Europe for scheduling reasons.

September 7-9 Former Astronauts Donn Eisele (Apollo 7), Mitchell, and Schweickart and Coordinator Hickman met with Cosmonauts Leonov, Dr. Oleg Makarov (Soyuz 12, 27, T-3), Yuri Romanenko (Soyuz 26, 28), and French Spaceman Jean-Loup Chretien (Soyuz T-6) at a private chateau near Paris. Plans are finalized for the First Planetary Congress of Space Explorers to be held at the same site in October, 1985.

October 2-7 1985 1ST PLANETARY CONGRESS: THE ASSOCIATION OF SPACE EXPLORERS

ASTRONAUT/COSMONAUT WORKING GROUP MEETING  
SEPTEMBER 7-9, 1984  
Abbey de Cernay, Cernay, France

On September 7, 1984, in a gracious ninth-century abbey near Paris where crusaders once paused on their way to the Holy Land, several American, Soviet, and French astronauts gathered to complete arrangements for the First Planetary Congress of Space Explorers. The abbey, now a private chateau, was generously offered as the venue for the meeting by Marie Christine Amiot. Mme Felix Amiot, her mother and President of Constructions Mechaniques de Normandie, was the hostess for the group.



The 9th Century Abbey where the meeting was held.

The astronauts in attendance were Donn Eisele (Apollo 7), Russell Schweickart (Apollo 9), and Dr. Edgar Mitchell (Apollo 14). James L. Hickman, Executive Director of the Esalen Institute Soviet-American Exchange Program, coordinated the American team and Harris Coulter was the US interpreter. The Soviet Union sent cosmonauts Alexei Leonov (Voskhod 2, Soyuz 19), Yuri Romanenko (Soyuz 26/Salyut 6, Soyuz 38/Salyut 6) and Dr. Oleg Makarov (Soyuz 12, Soyuz 27/Salyut 6, Soyuz T-3/Salyut 6). Dr. Andrei Kokoshin, Deputy Director of the USSR Academy of Sciences' Institute for US and Canadian Studies (IUSA&C) and his associate, Dr. Andrei Melvil (IUSA&C), were the Soviet coordinators. A Soviet interpreter and another Soviet Academy of Sciences representative from the Institute for Space Research completed the Soviet delegation. Jean-Loup Chretien (Soyuz T-6, T-7), the Frenchman who flew in the Soviet space program, represented the people from non-US/Soviet nations who have orbited the Earth.



Schweickart, Mitchell, & Eisele



Makarov & Leonov

This meeting was the result of several years of private negotiating and informal discussions through non-government channels. Throughout the process, the participants honored a mutual pledge for privacy to allay the concern of both governments that the meetings would be exploited for nationalistic purposes. With the 1984 gathering, the organization was sufficiently established (as an independent entity) to issue its first joint public statement. (See Addendum at end of report.)

The drafting of this joint statement was the occasion for the visions, goals, and commitments of the group to be articulated. The process of negotiating mutually acceptable language for the statement clarified the interests and purpose of the emerging organization.

The Americans were concerned about creating positive images for the future and avoiding issues of political difference. The Soviet Union, while reinforcing the image of a positive future, articulated more directly political perspectives. At one point, Mitchell illustrated a proposed context for the organization. Dividing the blackboard in half with a horizontal line, on the lower half he drew a mushroom cloud, representing the politics of fear and destruction. On the upper half, he drew an image of the whole Earth, symbolizing the perspective from space of a world without boundaries.



Conference participants imaging a positive future.

Mitchell said: "The task here is to maintain the perspective we have gained from our voyages outside the Earth's atmosphere; a perspective that has impressed upon the world's population the interconnectedness of all life. Are we going to continue to be mired in the traditional rhetoric of the political struggle that is pointing us all toward destruction and nuclear war? Or can we preserve that view of the Earth that keeps it whole for all people?" The Soviets responded: "Yes, we must preserve the image of oneness for future generations, but we also cannot lose contact with the reality of political struggle that is the daily concern of so many of our people." Everyone agreed to the importance of not allowing our political differences to compromise the vision of the view from space.

To insure continuation of this vision, both delegations stressed the need to establish an official organization as an outgrowth of the previous informal meetings. Makarov moved it to a vote. The response was unanimous; all hands were raised in confirmation of the desire to create an international organization of people who have orbited the Earth.



The Association is created.

In the course of their three days together, the cosmonauts and astronauts renewed old friendships, worked and relaxed, argued and agreed, and set the stage for an international gathering of space explorers.

They agreed that ten Americans, ten Soviets, two French and, six space flyers from other nations would convene for a week in October of 1985, to formally establish The Association of Space Explorers. The Amiot family again graciously offered the use of their chateau for the Congress, committing to remodel additional bedrooms for the organization's special needs. As accommodations would comprise the single largest expense item, this offer greatly assists in the underwriting of the conference.

As a possible educational project for the organization to pursue, the Soviets brought a handsome photo-mural display of images from their space program. It was suggested for the October Congress that a joint audio-visual environment be created, with photos, video displays, and slide shows, which could then be presented in public exhibitions. Paintings by astronaut Alan Bean (Apollo 12, Skylab 3) and cosmonaut Alexei Leonov might be shown. The Second Planetary Congress in 1986 might also sponsor an exhibition of children's art on themes of the whole Earth and space.



Astronaut/Cosmonaut Planning Committee with Marie Christine Amiot.

Plans are moving forward for the October Congress. All parties to the meeting have preserved the integrity of the original agreements, and both governments have honored the intention of the participants that the event be nonpartisan. As Rusty Schweickart said recently in a letter to his Soviet Co-Chairman, Alexei Leonov, "Our timing in the formation of the organization could not have been better. Having completed the planning during a period of difficult relations between our nations we now approach our first Planetary Congress in a period of renewed cooperation. Our challenge now, as we plan the meeting, is to meet this opportunity with imagination and determination. We can make a real difference in bringing a cooperative spirit into the development of space, and hopefully, bring the world closer together as we do."

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## ADDENDUM

THE ASSOCIATION OF SPACE EXPLORERS (ASE) was formed on September 8, 1984, following more than two years of discussions and planning. The organization is made up of people who have flown in space and is open to citizens of all nations who qualify. Members of the organization share as common interests, (1) the exchange of information and experience about spaceflight, (2) the desire for international cooperation in the peaceful development of space, and (3) the use of space for promoting resolution of scientific, technical, and humanitarian issues.

[The following press release was issued at the conclusion of the meeting.]

### PRESS STATEMENT

Cernay, France

9 September 1984

From September 7 to 9, 1984, a working meeting of former astronauts and cosmonauts from the United States, the Soviet Union and France was held near Paris. Attending the meeting from the U.S. were, Donn Eisele (Apollo 7), Dr. Edgar Mitchell (Apollo 14), Russell L. Schweickart (Apollo 9), from France was Jean-Loup Chretien (Soyuz T-6), and from the USSR were Alexei Leonov (Voskhod 2, ASTP), Dr. Oleg Makarov (Soyuz 12, Soyuz 27, Soyuz T-3), Yuri Romanenko (Soyuz 26, Soyuz 38). The meeting had been preceded by several years of preparation. During the meeting the group expressed a common desire for regular contacts among persons who are bound together by their shared experience in space flight.

Acknowledging their concern for the future of humanity and recognizing opportunities for cooperation the participants expressed their determination to use the privilege of their unique experience to promote the development of space and the use of space technology for the benefit of all people.

Because of the specific nature of their experience space explorers are aware of the need for international cooperation in the peaceful development and exploration of space for promoting resolution of major scientific, technical and humanitarian issues.

On this basis the working group decided to establish an organization of people who have traveled in space. The purpose of the organization will be to explore and promote constructive uses of space for enhancing the quality of life around the planet and to provide a positive view of the future for generations to come; to promote the establishment of broader contacts among people who have flown in space and to identify opportunities for cooperation and issues of common concern.