

THE VICE PRESIDENT'S OFFICE  
OFFICE OF THE PRESS SECRETARY

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Embargoed until delivery \* Monday, August 31, 1992 \* 9:40 a.m.

REMARKS BY THE VICE PRESIDENT  
WORLD SPACE CONGRESS

Washington Convention Center  
Washington, D.C.

As Chairman of the National Space Council, it is my great pleasure to welcome this group of space experts to Washington.

Space is mankind's last frontier. It offers great practical promise; it also engages our powers of imagination. In the last three decades, we've broken the bonds of gravity, explored the far reaches of the solar system, and walked on the Moon. The next three decades offer the promise of almost equally dramatic progress.

By now we take for granted the way that space-based technology has transformed our society. Our space-based global communications network bridges vast distances in an instant. The whole world watched as the Berlin Wall fell, and a new age dawned. During Desert Storm our Global Positioning System told soldiers, sailors, and airmen their precise location at any moment. This capability is available to all nations and, in my opinion, will revolutionize civilian transportation in the next century. And last week, early detection by a weather satellite gave hundreds of thousands of Americans enough advance warning to leave areas that Hurricane Andrew later devastated.

The jaded look at these accomplishments, and believe that our greatest leaps of invention and space exploration are behind us. I believe we've barely begun.

I agree with American rocket pioneer Robert Goddard, who wrote: "There can be no thoughts of finishing, for aiming at the stars ... is a problem to occupy generations ... no matter how much progress one makes, there is always the thrill of just beginning."

I'm here today to promise that the United States remains deeply committed to space. With the Cold War behind us, we want to lead a global coalition in a cooperative effort in the peaceful use and exploration of space. This is a goal to which we can all commit ourselves.

I'd like to outline some of the things we are doing to further this goal here in the U.S. And I'd like to talk about some of the steps that all of us in the international space

community will have to take as well.

First, let me assure you that President Bush is committed to progress, to excellence and, yes, to leadership in space. And we have the record to prove it. Immediately after taking office, President Bush re-established the National Space Council and moved space policy-making to the White House. He has issued seven major National Space Policy Directives to shape our space programs for the future. And he has backed up his words with real resources. The President has requested a 40% increase in NASA's budget since taking office.

But let's talk about the future. The time has come for all of us to move beyond the operating principles dictated by the Cold War. To start the process, I have directed my Space Policy Advisory Board to review our current space policies and to consider changes that make sense for a peaceful, though competitive future.

One major goal is to improve the working relationship -- and the synergism -- between civil and national security space activities. We will look at better ways to share infrastructure (including launch pads, ground tracking and data relay capabilities), and work together developing new technology.

We will redesign the relationship between industry and government, to foster technological competitiveness and strengthen American companies in international markets. And we will examine ways to promote international cooperation. A first step towards that is a uniform set of rules governing trade in space products.

Our Advisory Board has already begun to work on two areas that require immediate attention: First, we are looking at the ways in which our critical space-related industries will be affected by the defense build-down. Right now we have an incredible pool of human talent, and some remarkable institutions. Our goal is to protect our people and to preserve critical skills, industrial capacity, and a cutting edge technology base for future space exploration and commerce.

Second, we need to stretch our scarce resources, by figuring out how to do things faster, better and cheaper. We need a lower cost launch system that's safe, reliable, and responsive to military and civilian needs. Cutting launch costs makes space enterprise available to a wider range of users, with new applications, new industries, and new jobs as a result.

We need to ensure a future talent pool. Lack of access to space, and long lead times for robotic explorers have discouraged graduate students from pursuing space research. To entice our brightest students, NASA Administrator Dan Goldin will establish

a University Space Initiative Program. It will provide Ph.D. students with the grants for space research and assured access to space in the course of their dissertation research.

The United States hopes that, in this new world, some of our work will inspire other nations to join us as partners. Space Station Freedom -- the largest international science and engineering project ever undertaken -- will teach us how to live and work together in space. That's knowledge we need to begin human exploration of the solar system -- and to help solve problems here on Earth. Please, don't pay attention to the critics: We will build the Space Station.

In this International Space Year we have undertaken many important joint projects with our space partners: In January, the Space Shuttle flew the International Microgravity Lab, and in a few days we will launch the Japanese Spacelab, key precursors to Space Station Freedom. Just this month, the U.S. and France launched TOPEX/Poseidon, an oceanographic satellite that's part of Mission to Planet Earth; and the Shuttle deployed the European EURECA satellite, and tested the Italian Tethered Satellite. And as we expand our relationships with our traditional partners, we need to find new ways to use our collective resources to avoid wasteful duplication.

And then there is the work we are beginning with our most un-traditional partner. I'm proud to be part of a moment in history that none of us really believed could happen. In June, the President and I met with Russian President Boris Yeltsin to start the process of building a new cooperative relationship in space research, exploration, and commerce between our two nations. This is the late twentieth century version of turning swords into ploughshares.

Presidents Bush and Yeltsin agreed to broaden contacts between our two nations' space programs. And, to get to know each other's capabilities better, a Russian cosmonaut will be flying on the Space Shuttle in October, 1993, and an American astronaut should fly on the Mir space station after that. We're planning to have our Space Shuttle dock with Mir in 1994.

President Bush has also urged American companies to explore business opportunities in the former Soviet republics as they make the transition to a market-oriented economy with fair trade practices. In our pursuit of further cooperation, we will, of course, proceed with caution, building a stable and reliable relationship. But who could have imagined all of this, even a few years ago? Certainly not any American who watched the Sputnik launch and knew that fears of war and conquest catalyzed so many of our early accomplishments.

As all of our international efforts blossom, it's important

to reiterate the one condition about which the United States is adamant. We expect all of our space partners to comply with non-proliferation treaties and norms. This includes adherence to the guidelines of the Missile Technology Control Regime. On these there can be no compromise. Obviously it would be impossible to trust or work with nations unwilling to meet treaty obligations meant to ensure global stability.

And we will encourage long-term development of a truly civil space program in Russia and elsewhere so that we can have the same kind of cooperative relationships we maintain with our traditional space partners.

Perhaps we, the nations of the world, will all be wiser and more cooperative about our common concerns as we move into this new frontier.

For instance, it is not too soon to begin practicing the environmental lessons that we have learned here on Earth. I have asked the National Space Council to speed up the U.S. government's work on the issue of orbital debris, to identify ways to prevent debris and protect against it. I strongly encourage other space-faring nations to join us so that we can develop international standards for government and industry. We do not want this to become a serious problem for future generations.

As Cold War confrontation yields to New World cooperation, opportunities for commercial space enterprises will increase. For instance, technological advances will soon make mobile communications between people anywhere on the planet possible, using low Earth orbit satellites. We are committed to expediting government authorization without delay for all companies that wish to provide these new services.

But, for meaningful competition in these new industries to develop, governments must exercise restraint in directly supporting commercial companies. We would like to see an international framework for space trade that incorporates these principles. We hope our European partners and others will join us in addressing the issue of fair competition in the communications satellite and launch industries.

For the future, we want to go back to the Moon -- this time to stay. We want to begin the human exploration of Mars. We want to send more robotic probes to the other planets, moons, asteroids, and comets, to bring back samples. The knowledge we'll gain will ultimately support our most important mission: Mission to Planet Earth.

Mission to Planet Earth, Landsat, and other programs are intended to answer questions about what is really happening to