

Several Significant Things Learned From Space Flight

Regional Edition

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MEDFORD TRIBUNE

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Rusk Tells NATO of Strength Necessity

Oslo, Norway — (UPI) — Secretary of State Dean Rusk told the NATO alliance today it must be strong and flexible enough to meet a far-reaching Russian global strategy at any point and in any way it presents a threat.

Rusk reviewed the crises in Laos, the Congo and Cuba, and told the NATO foreign ministers that the defense grouping is now facing a Soviet global program involving all sorts of maneuvers in all sorts of places.

He said NATO must therefore be firm and strengthen its defenses not only with nuclear power but also with more powerful conventional military forces.

Urged to Get Ready
Rusk was followed by Turkish Foreign Minister Selim Sarper who urged NATO to get ready for new Soviet threats and appealed for greater NATO solidarity and attention to underdeveloped nations.

Rusk said he hoped the three-power Geneva Nuclear Conference ultimately will

reach agreement despite Russian obstruction. The United States will continue its efforts with hopes that one day a reasonable nuclear test ban treaty can be reached, he said.

Then he turned briefly to the U.S. cosmic program and announced that the United States expects to send a manned satellite into orbit before the end of the year. He said it has great hopes of sending rockets to the moon, Mars and Venus. But he said that what is most important to the United States is that the program is a scientific success.

Considered Essential
In a major policy review of the international scene, Rusk pledged the United States to leave U.S. forces in Europe. He said the Kennedy administration considers NATO essential to the Free World and a touchstone of U.S. foreign policy.

Addressing the opening session of a three-day ministerial meeting, Rusk warned of Russia's large nuclear power, but he told the ministers the United States is in a position to meet the Soviet nuclear threat.

Astronaut Tells News Conference Of Experiences

Washington — (UPI) — Astronaut Alan B. Shepard Jr., 37, said today "everything worked fine" on his space voyage Friday and that the United States could have made the shot before Russia put its man into orbit.

"We could have gone a lot earlier," the heroic naval commander told a jammed news conference, but the Civilian Space Agency decided not to "rush the program."

As to why the space agency had not rushed the program, Shepard said all persons involved felt the timetable was a "well laid out, reliable program."

Washington — (UPI) — Cmdr. Alan B. Shepard Jr. said today the astronauts were "very much pleased and encouraged" by his space flight and would press ahead now with the greatest possible speed.

Appearing before a jammed news conference after his triumphal arrival in Washington, Shepard said the Mercury Project felt several significant things were learned from his historic suborbital flight Friday.

One of these, he said, was that—as the man in the space craft—he actually could exercise control over some of its devices in retroactive firing and re-entry into the earth's atmosphere.

He was introduced by Robert R. Gilruth, director of the Mercury Project, who said that the flight was "extremely productive" and had yielded "a large amount of test data."

Gilruth said Shepard had been "extremely cool during that long count down" and had done a fine job test flying the vehicle.

Gilruth called it "an extremely tense but productive flight." He added there would be "many tough flights ahead."

Questions and Answers
Here are some questions and answers from Shepard's news conference:

Q. How did you feel when you were waiting to go into space?

A. I had so many technical things to think about, I really didn't have time for personal feelings. But I was surprised by the lift out, how smooth it was. I expected more noise and vibration. It was a very pleasant lift off.

Q. Where were you when you said "What a beautiful sight?"

A. Well, I had just made some maneuvers with the manual controls and the program called for me to look through the periscope at this point. We had been briefed on what to expect and I had seen pictures of what it would look like. But when I first looked through the periscope I must admit it took my breath away. It was a beautiful view.

Q. What was the worst part of the flight?

A. I don't think we had any bad moments. He kept using the pronoun "we" instead of "I" throughout the news conference.

Loud laughter erupted when a reporter asked about the reported bet Shepard made with another astronaut that he would not be able to see the stars or distinguish various constellations. Shepard chuckled and referred the question to the man he had bet with, Col. John H. Glenn.

Glenn said "we were just wondering if Al could see the stars, like I claimed he could, but I'm claiming foul because he didn't take his eyes off the instruments long enough and I figure I owed a steak dinner payoff."



TORNADO DAMAGE — The side of this at Howe, Okla. The occupants were not in-house was neatly sliced off and the roof jured although the tornado left 15 dead and was carried away when a tornado struck 56 injured at Howe. (UPI Telephoto)

White House Welcome

Kennedy Points To Common Effort for Space Triumph

(Continued from Page 1)

Mrs. Shepard had been at Andrews Air Force Base to meet the astronaut on his arrival after a flight of 2 hours and 11 minutes from Grand Bahama Island.

Twenty-three minutes later, he was on the south lawn of the White House shaking hands with President and Mrs. Kennedy.

Kennedy, bareheaded under a hazy sun, presented Shepard with the Distinguished Service Medal. Shepard stood ramrod stiff as Kennedy read the citation, and accompanied it with his warm congratulations.

In his welcoming remarks, Kennedy said "I think they know how proud we are of him and what great satisfaction his accomplishment has given us."

He said of the other astronauts: "Our pride in them is equal."

The President said Shepard's flight was "a common effort" and all of the astronauts deserved credit for the feat.

"I think we should give them a hand," Kennedy told the crowd on hand for the ceremony.

Shepard flew into space and fame last Friday and spent the intervening time at Grand Bahama Island before flying to Andrews Air Force Base, Md., by jet this morning.

After greeting his wife and parents, he flew by helicopter to the White House.

Public Watcher
Kennedy noted that the flight was made with full public disclosure and that it was all the more successful because of the risk of disclosing failure that was present.

In presenting the award, he noted that "this is an accomplishment that, started from the ground up."

The citation read by Kennedy said: "He flew as the first United States astronaut was an outstanding contribution to the advancement of human knowledge of space technology and a demonstration of man's capabilities in suborbital space flight."

Before launching seriously into a rather formal response, Shepard told the President, "I thought last Friday was a thrilling day but this surpasses it."

"I got less sleep last night" than before the space flight, Shepard said.

He said he was "very mindful" that part of the credit should go to the hundreds of persons who made the flight possible during the two years in which the astronauts were preparing.

A moment later, with Kennedy leading the way, Shepard was striding into the White House for a reception by the President and the first lady.

The President led Shepard

and the other six astronauts into his office for private talks. He sat in his famed rocking chair with the astronauts flanking him on divans on either side. While posing for photographers, Kennedy leaned forward intently to talk to Shepard on his immediate right.

Mrs. Kennedy escorted Mrs. Shepard and the other women in the party to the White House living quarters for coffee.

Sharing honors with Shepard were the other astronauts, U.S. space officials, and his lovely wife, Louise. The President and Mrs. Kennedy gave Mrs. Shepard a beaming welcome.

Mrs. Kennedy commiserated with Mrs. Shepard over the brevity of the reunion with her husband who must go back to his Mercury man-in-space work later today while she goes back to their home at Virginia Beach near Norfolk, Va.

Things were happening for Shepard almost as fast as they did last Friday when he flew 15 minutes into fame aboard Freedom 7, a Mercury cap-

sule which carried him 115 miles up into space and 302 miles down the Atlantic missile range from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

The medal ceremony was hardly as smooth as last Friday's launching. First, Kennedy tumbled and dropped the medal with its blue-white ribbon. Then he forgot, for a moment, to pin it on the astronaut.

When the medal slipped from Kennedy's hands, NASA Administrator E. Webb nimbly retrieved it.

The President drew laughs from the assembled officials, which included members of the cabinet, when with the medal back in his hands he told Shepard:

"I am proud to present this decoration — which has gone from the ground up."

Then he handed the medal to Shepard with the remark, "here." Not until Shepard had delivered his response did the President rectify his mistake. Taking the medal back from Shepard, Kennedy said:

"Let me pin it on; I'll do my duty."

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Executions in Cuba Claimed Continuing

Miami — (UPI) — Travelers from Havana said today they believe Cuban Premier Fidel Castro quietly is continuing executions in a drive to liquidate his opposition.

Havana is alive with reports of new executions, the travelers said especially in the interior of the country where scores are known to have been killed by firing squads in the

past without any announcement.

News gathering facilities in Cuba are rigidly curtailed and it was impossible to confirm the reports.

Jay Mallin of Time-Life magazine, a recent arrival from Cuba, said Sunday that at least 30 Americans are believed to be in Cuban jails. He said they simply have

dropped from sight and cannot be located.

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