

REMARKS BY
VICE PRESIDENT HUBERT HUMPHREY
ON
GEMINI 5 SPACE FLIGHT

The 8-day Gemini 5 flight of Astronauts L. Gordon Cooper, Jr. and Charles Conrad, Jr. will mark a significant space milestone in giving the nation's space program practical experience in prolonged flight under actual space conditions. This historic event will give us the opportunity to test the Astronaut's endurance and reactions to space flight conditions simulating an entire Apollo lunar flight in length. The Gemini 5 flight will more than double U.S. experience in manned space flight from approximately 156 hours to about 350 hours.

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The Astronauts will also be able to test thoroughly the many pieces of equipment essential to progress toward our program of future space flights.

Men and equipment will gain experience toward the new and exciting goals in the future of our space effort.

My best wishes go with Astronauts Cooper and Conrad for a completely successful flight.

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Space Speech files

Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen:

The President of the United States has already honored our distinguished space men today, as they in turn have honored our country.

I would, however, like to add my few words of praise to Dr. Berry, to Colonel Cooper, and to Commander Conrad. Also, I want to commend every responsible person in Government and in industry who contributed to the great space adventure and great space success of the Gemini-5.

We are all proud to speak of our space activity as a national space program. Indeed, it is national, with cooperation from many branches of Government and from many elements of the private sector of our economy.

The program is more than national, however. It is international. And, I want to stress, our space program's potential as an arm of foreign policy and particularly of peace policy.

I believe that high among the benefits which you astronauts, administrators, and scientists are contributing to your country is our sturdy movement toward world peace. If sanity prevails -- and I believe it will -- the path to the stars can be the path to peace.

The National Aeronautics and Space Act -- the basic legislation which authorizes our national space program -- states that all of our space activities should be conducted "for the benefit of mankind." Indeed, such is this country's intention, and such are the program's results.

In the field of education -- an area of major interest to those assembled here today -- the space program acts as a stimulus and a catalyst at all levels, with particular attention to science and engineering. In fact, I believe the benefit to education alone is sufficient to justify much of the cost of our national space program.

Those who are engaged in the national space program -- whether they be orbiting the earth in the most modern of space equipment or whether they are working diligently in the laboratories -- are contributing to the world's library of scientific knowledge. I would emphasize that such contribution might well be sufficient to justify the total cost of our national space program.

In conclusion, I would state that Gemini-5 is much more than a project of great historic significance, although it is that. It has been a pathfinder and a record-breaker -- but the highways to the stars are many and long, and records are made to be broken.

As I said, Gemini-5 is symbolic of many things. It reveals the courage of those who flew successfully for eight days in the narrow confines of the spacecraft. It also portrays the managerial ability of

those who organized and brought this project to such a high state of perfection. It shows the scientific dedication and the engineering expertise of the many who were connected with this great project. And, it reveals the determination of your President and the Congress that second-place in space is not for this great country.

E. C. Welsh

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