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Pre-Launch
Mission Operation Report
No. M-932-68-08 ✓

MEMORANDUM

To: A/Acting Administrator
From: MA/Apollo Program Director
Subject: Apollo 8 Mission (AS-503)

SATURN HISTORY DOCUMENT
University of Alabama Research Institute
History of Science & Technology Group

Date ----- Doc. No. -----

No earlier than 21 December 1968, we plan to launch the next Apollo/Saturn V mission, Apollo 8. This will be the first manned Saturn V flight, the second flight of a manned Apollo spacecraft and the first manned Apollo flight to the lunar vicinity.

The purpose of this mission is to demonstrate: crew/space vehicle/mission support facilities performance during a manned Saturn V mission with CSM, and performance of nominal and selected backup lunar orbital mission activities including translunar injection, CSM navigation, communications and midcourse corrections, and CSM consumables assessment and passive thermal control. Mission duration is planned for approximately six days and three hours.

The launch will be the third Saturn V from Launch Complex 39 at Kennedy Space Center. The launch window opens at 7:51 EST 21 December and closes for December at 18:20 EST 27 December. Daily windows during this period vary in duration from 4-1/2 hours to approximately 1-1/2 hours.

The nominal mission will comprise: ascent to parking orbit; translunar injection by the S-IVB; CSM separation from S-IVB; translunar coast with required midcourse corrections; lunar orbit insertion and circularization; up to 10 lunar orbits; transearth injection, transearth coast and required midcourse corrections; reentry and splashdown. Recovery will be in the Pacific recovery area with exact location dependent on launch conditions.

Sam C. Phillips
Sam C. Phillips
Lt. General, USAF
Apollo Program Director
1968

9 Dec

APPROVAL:

George E. Mueller
George E. Mueller
Associate Administrator for
Manned Space Flight