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Aero-Astro 2  
Apollo 8

NOV 18 1968

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

MEMORANDUM to: Associate Administrator for  
Manned Space Flight

FROM : Acting Administrator

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

REFERENCE : a. Memorandum to Associate Administrator for Manned  
Space Flight from Apollo Program Director, Subject:  
Apollo 8 Selection, dated November 11, 1968

b. Memorandum for Acting Administrator from Associate  
Administrator for Manned Space Flight, dated  
November 11, 1968

c. Memorandum to Acting Administrator from Associate  
Administrator for Manned Space Flight, Subject:  
Request for Approval to Man the Apollo Saturn V  
Launch Vehicle, dated November 5, 1968

Based on careful consideration and analyses of all of the information, comments, results of engineering tests and analysis, etc. provided to me, I approved on November 11 Lt. Gen. Samuel C. Phillips' recommendation (reference a), transmitted and agreed to by your memorandum to me (reference b), that the Apollo 8 mission be conducted as a manned lunar orbit mission with CSM 103 on Saturn 503 pending successful accomplishment of all necessary preparation and checkout activities for this mission. Included among the various inputs that I considered were:

1. The recommendation of Lt. Gen. Samuel C. Phillips, Apollo Program Director, with the supporting reasoning attached to his memorandum to you dated November 11 (reference a);

2. The presentations made to me on November 11 by Gen. Phillips, Mr. Lee James, Saturn V Program Manager-MSFC, Mr. George Low, Apollo Program Manager-MSC, Mr. Christopher C. Kraft, Director of Flight Operations-MSC, Mr. Rocco A. Petrone, Director of Launch Operations-KSC;

3. The statements of Mr. Gerald M. Truszynski, Associate Administrator for Tracking and Data Acquisition, and Lt. Gen. Vincent Houston, USAF, indicating the ability of their systems and forces to be ready for such a mission;

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4. The statements supporting a manned lunar orbit mission by each of the following (in the separate meeting on November 11, following the formal presentation by Gen. Phillips and the Apollo Program Managers listed above):

Mr. Harold B. Finger, Associate Administrator for  
Organization and Management

Mr. Willis H. Shapley, Associate Deputy Administrator

Mr. Bob P. Helgeson, NASA Safety Director

Mr. Julian Scheer, Assistant Administrator for Public  
Affairs

Dr. Kurt H. Debus, Director KSC

Dr. Robert R. Gilruth, Director MSC

Dr. Wernher von Braun, Director MSFC

Dr. Floyd L. Thompson, Special Assistant to the Administrator

Mr. Eberhard F. M. Rees, Deputy Director-Technical, MSFC

5. The information that you provided to me concerning the comments of the Science Technology Advisory Committee (STAC), the reactions of PSAC, and the comments of the representatives of the industrial organizations responsible for various elements in the Apollo program;

6. The separate statements that you and Dr. Newell, Associate Administrator, made also supporting this mission;

7. The information provided to me in various briefings and in your memorandum of November 5 (reference c) to indicate that the problems or anomalies encountered in AS-502 have been solved and proven in analysis and tests;

8. My telephone conversation with Command Pilot Frank Borman who also supports this mission.

It should be made clear to all participating organizational elements throughout the Apollo program that any problem encountered during the preparation for this mission that may, in any way, increase the potential risk of the mission must be made known to all appropriate levels of NASA management as

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soon as the problem is encountered. I will rely on you and those organizations to notify me as soon as such a problem is encountered, since my approval was based on consideration of the benefits to be derived from this mission and the risks involved in undertaking it.

Original signed by  
T.O. Paine  
Acting Administrator

T. O. Paine

CONCURRENCES: D/HBF;kh 11/13/68

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