

SOYUZ 3 MOON TRIP CALLED UNLIKELY

Beregovoi Says Craft Was
Uncapable of Lunar Flight

MOSCOW, Nov. 5 (Reuters)
—Maj. Gen. Georgi T. Beregovoi, the Soviet astronaut, said today that the Soyuz 3 craft in which he orbited the earth for four days at the end of last month was not capable of making a moon trip.

Answering questions at a news conference in Moscow, the newly promoted air force general confirmed that the craft was capable of holding several men, but was evasive about future Soviet manned space flight plans.

At the same news conference, however, Mstislav V. Keldysh, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, implied that the Russians were not planning a manned flight to the moon imminently.

Asked if the Soviet Union planned to send animals to the moon before men, he replied that there would be further research by unmanned moon craft before a decision was taken.

Flights Up to 30 Miles

Another Soviet space scientist Konstantin P. Feoktistov, disclosed that Soyuz 3 could be used for flights lasting up to 30 days and could perform maneuvers up to an altitude of 800 miles.

But all three stressed several times that Soyuz 3 was an orbital space craft and could not be used for moon trips.

General Beregovoi said both Soyuz 3 and the unmanned Soyuz 2, with which he carried out complicated approach maneuvers during the flight, were equipped with devices for automatic docking.

Asked why his craft had not docked with Soyuz 2, he replied: "That was not on the program."

General Beregovoi, 47 years old, the oldest man to have been in space, said he had brought Soyuz 3 to within "a few yards" of Soyuz 2 during the maneuvering.

He confirmed that he was alone during the flight, but said: "It would have been good to have a comrade. One pair of hands was hardly enough for all I had to do."

He said the craft, which has a capacity of 11.7 cubic yards was designed to hold more than one man—"two, three or such like,"—but did not give the exact figure. Asked if he planned to make future flights, the astronaut replied with a grin, "Of course."