

Armstrong Tells Russian Scientists U.S. and Soviet Should Cooperate in Space Projects

By JAMES F. CLARITY
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MOSCOW, June 3—Neil A. Armstrong, the first man to walk on the moon, obviously pleased an audience of several hundred Soviet scientists today by advocating closer United States-Soviet cooperation in space exploration and implying that the space programs of the two nations would eventually converge.

Mr. Armstrong, on the last day of an official visit to this country, not only told the scientists, who crowded into an ornate hall in the Academy of Sciences, that he favored increased cooperation but he

also said that the development of space stations and shuttles was "the most important" method of practical space usage. At present, the United States program is concentrated on lunar missions. The Soviet space program is geared toward the building of orbital space stations.

As he described the Apollo 11 mission, which he commanded last July, and answered questions with occasional low-key humor, Mr. Armstrong was applauded several times and drew a few gusty laughs.

Of United States-Soviet space cooperation efforts he said, "I believe these should be expand-

ed a great deal and I hope they will be." He added, "I have found in discussions with my Soviet cosmonaut colleagues that their objectives in space are very much the same as ours."

Describing the United States program, he said, "The next two years will include four more lunar flights, of the type that I completed, to new areas of the moon, which will leave scientific equipment that will continue to operate unmanned."

"The following years," he said, "will be devoted to our initial space station efforts."

He said the planned American space station would be

composed primarily of components built during the Apollo program." Such components, he said, will have additional space for scientific equipment and "will be capable of revisitability."

Asked to comment on space shuttles and space stations — presumably the prime objectives of the Soviet program — he said:

"I happen to believe that these two particular developments are the most important toward an early practical usage of space." He added that he would be glad to be a member of a joint Soviet-American space crew. The remark elicited

smiles throughout the audience.

The American astronaut also pleased the scientists, judging from their faces, by praising Soyuz 9, the Soviet two-man spacecraft launched two days ago and reported still operating normally in earth orbit. Mr. Armstrong said the experiments in earth measurements presumably being made by Soyuz 9 would be useful to the United States space program.

But the American won the most open approval of the Soviet audience when he answered relatively unscientific questions.

He was asked if the words he spoke when he stepped on the

moon ("That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind") were composed on earth or in space.

"I'm afraid I'm guilty of composing that phrase on the lunar surface," he said, with a slight smile. The audience laughed, then burst into applause.

Would he volunteer for a three-year trip to Mars?

"I think I would ask them if I could take my family along," he said, as the scientists laughed and applauded again.

Course Correction Made

MOSCOW, June 3 (UPI)—The two cosmonauts aboard Soyuz 9 underwent a brief medical check today on the

second day of what is expected to be a long mission to test the effects of prolonged space travel on man.

Soviet scientists have announced plans to build an orbital space platform, and medical sources in Moscow said they were concerned about the effects of protracted weightlessness and artificial atmosphere on human beings.

The Soviet official press agency Tass said the crewmen made a course correction on their 17th orbit, relayed the medical data to earth and then retired for a rest.

Tass said after 22 orbits that both men "feel well and retain fully their capacity for work."