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Date 27 July 19 61

DETAILS OF THE LEGENDARY FLIGHT

Press Conference Devoted to the Successful Completion of the First Cosmic Flight of a Soviet Man on the Satellite-Ship, "Vostok".

The Academy of Sciences of the USSR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the USSR yesterday held a press conference in the Science Building.

Representatives of the Soviet and Foreign press, the diplomatic corps, members of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR and outstanding scientists and representatives of Moscow public organizations were invited to the press conference.

The appearance of the first pilot-cosmonaut of the USSR, glorious son of the Soviet people, was hailed by a wild ovation from the journalists and other participants of the press conference. Altogether about one thousand people gathered at this memorable conference.

The press conference was opened by the president of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR, A. N. Nesmeyanov.

Statement of A. N. Nesmeyanov

On April 12, 1961 the Soviet Union for the first time in history put into

orbit an artificial earth satellite, the cosmic ship "Vostok," with pilot-cosmonaut Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin aboard.

This occurred in the morning. The cosmic ship was put into orbit with a perigee of 175 kilometers and an apogee of 302 kilometers above the surface of the earth. The period of the ship's rotation around the earth was equal to 89.1 min.

The cosmic ship was equipped with all the necessary instruments for safeguarding the pilot and the ship landing successfully. Many of the systems installed on the ship were in duplicate. The ship contained equipment that enabled the pilot to determine his position at any time.

Two-way communication was constantly maintained with the cosmonaut both at launching time as well as during the flight.

It is necessary to emphasize the exceptional bravery, stamina and self-control of the pilot-cosmonaut Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin. On the night before the flight, as was prescribed to him by his physicians, Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin had a sound sleep and was awakened several hours before the flight. His pulse was 70-75 beats per minute during the entire preparation of the flight and after launching of the rocket. He joked, and with his cheerful attitude strengthened confidence in the success of the flight.

When he was told that the order to start the rocket motors has been given he cheerfully replied "Well, let's go!".

During the acceleration of the ship before going into orbit, when the powerful rocket boosters operated and the cosmonaut experienced excessive gravity, vibration and noise, even in this tense period of the flight cosmonaut Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin continuously transmitted all the necessary information

not only about his sensations but also about equipment operation in the cabin. After passing through the dense layers of the atmosphere, when the cosmonaut saw the earth, he reported: "What a beautiful view!".

Then, during the entire flight, Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin maintained continuous communication with the earth. At 9 hours 52 minutes when passing over South America, he reported: "The flight is normal and I feel fine." At 10 to 15 minutes, when passing over Africa, Yuriy Alekseyevich reported: "I am enduring the state of weightlessness very well."

At 10 hours and 25 minutes the braking motor device of the cosmic ship was switched on and the ship began to descend from the orbit in order to land at a predetermined place. At 10 hours 55 minutes the Soviet ship "Vostok" made a safe landing.

Thus the greatest feat was accomplished and a new brilliant page was recorded in the history of civilization. This is a feat of the Soviet people, who are guided by our Communist Party and the Soviet Government. This is a feat of large collectives of scientists, designers, engineers, technicians and workers; this a a feat of all the researchers who guaranteed the flawless preparation and launching of the rocket; this is a feat of all the services that guaranteed the normal flight and landing of the cosmic ship; and this is the feat of a heroic son of the Soviet Fatherland - Yiriy Alekseyevich Gagarin. His name has already become legendary.

Everything that is connected with this feat is symbolic: that the first cosmonaut turned out to be a Soviet man, that the first cosmic ship in which Yuriy Alekseyevich made his flight is named "Vostok," and that the flight was carried out in the morning. And this morning has become the morning of a new

era.

Henceforth, the day April 12, 1961 will be forever connected with the feat of Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin. The entire flight around the earth was carried out in 108 minutes, and these minutes shook the world.

The culture of civilization has a long and an unbelievably amazing history. Its every feat, let it be the creation of the first writing symbols, or the creation of the first steam engines, or the first trip around world, - these are all dates, when mankind elevated itself to a new stage, by solidifying the force of progress and creation. These feats have not been always recognized immediately, a bitter struggle was going on between the old and the new, and the more revolutionary the event that opened the path to the future, the greater was the resistance of the old to the new.

On the threshold of the twentieth century an unrecognized genius Tsiolkovski was the first to point out to mankind the path to the stars. His works were the foundation of the new science of cosmonautics, one of whose brilliant triumphs we are celebrating today.

The words of Konstantin Eduardovich Tsiolkovskiy have come to pass: "The earth is a cradle of intelligence, but no one can live in a cradle forever".

Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin, the first pilot-cosmonaut, underwent a long and straineous period of preparation. This was an unusual system of preparation deeply scientific, which gave to the pilot-cosmonaut technical knowledge connected with the ship's equipment and its systems, and knowledge of astronomy, geophysics, biology and other sciences.

The pilot-cosmonaut underwent tests on excessive gravitation on special centrifuge machines and on vibration stands. Days and weeks were spent on

experiments in sealed cabins, which imitated exactly the cabin of the comic ship. The system of landing was perfected. This entire great effort was culminated by the first cosmic flight in history.

Dear Yuriy Alekseyevich

On behalf of the presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR I congratulate you, - a wonderful Soviet person, Columbus of the Cosmos. (Continuous applause, the people standing up applaud Yu. A. Gagarin).

Centuries will pass, but your name will always remind people of the greatest feat that was accomplished by the Soviet scientists, designers and you personally, who carried out the first flight of man into the cosmos. (Applause). You have presented to mankind an example of fortitude, courage and heroism in the name of service to mankind.

Academician A. N. Nesmeyanov hands Yu. A. Gagarin the Tsiolkovskiy gold medal, with which the presidium of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR decorated the hero for carrying out the first cosmic flight in the world aboard the sputnik-ship "Vostok".

The hero-cosmonaut Yuriy, Alekseyevich Gagarin is asked to make a statement. The correspondents rise and warmly applaud the man whose name has become a legend.

Statement of Yu. A. Gagarin

Dear comrades and esteemed guests

Many people are interested in my biography. I have read in the paper that several not very serious people in the United States, distant relatives of the

princes Gagarin consider that I am one of their relatives. However, I can disappoint them. They have not acted seriously or in the proper manner. I am a simple Soviet man. I was born on March 9, 1934 in the family of a kolkhoz worker. The place of birth is the Smolensk region, Gzhatsk district. I do not know of any princes or people of noble birth among my relatives and have never heard of them. My parents before the revolution were poor peasants. My grandfather was also a poor peasant, and there are no princes among us. (Applause). I am sorry for these know-all "relatives", but I will have to disappoint them. (Laughter, Applause).

I attended a trade school in the town of Lyubertsy in the Moscow district and then entered the Saratov industrial technical school, specializing as a molder-caster. However my greatest desire has always been to become a pilot. On graduating from the technical school in 1955 I completed simultaneously courses at the Saratov air club and was accepted by the Orenburg Aviation Academy from which I graduated in 1957 as a fighter pilot. I was attached to one of the units of the Armed Forces of the USSR.

Then on my convincing request I was included into the group of cosmonaut candidates. The selection was made, and as you see I became a cosmonaut. (Applause). I underwent a program of preparation, which was developed by our scientists and which was described to you in such detail by the president of the Academy of Sciences. I studied the technology very thoroughly and was ready for the cosmic flight.

I am very happy, and very grateful to our party and our government for entrusting me with this flight. I made this flight in the name of our Motherland, in the name of the heroic Soviet people and in the name of the Communist Party

of the Soviet Union and its Lenin's Central Committee. (Applause).

I felt very well before the flight, exceptionally well, and was convinced in the successful outcome of the flight. The equipment was very good, very reliable, and I and all my friends, scientists, engineers and technicians, were convinced in the successful outcome of the flight.

I also felt very well during the flight.

I experience no overpowering effects in the active section of the flight during the action of excessive gravity, vibration and other loads and was able to do constructive work as planned for the flight.

After being put into orbit, after the separation from the carrier rocket, weightlessness set in. At first this sensation was somewhat unusual, although I had experienced short periods of weightlessness before. However I soon got used to this weightlessness, became familiarized with the new state and continued to carry out the flight program that was assigned to me. According to my personal opinion weightlessness has no effect on the efficiency of the organism or on the execution of the physiological functions.

During the flight I performed useful work according to the program. During the flight I took food, water, and maintained continuous radiocommunication with the earth both by voice and by telegraph. I observed the operation of the ship's equipment, reported to the earth and recorded data in the log book and on the magnetic tape. I felt very well during the period of weightlessness and was in complete control of my functions. Then according to the planned program, at a specific time, a command was given to land. The braking device was switched on the earth. The landing on the earth according to the programmed flight took place and I joyfully met the Soviet people on the earth. The landing took place

at predetermined location.

I would like to tell you a few words about what I observed while in the cosmos.

The earth from an altitude of 175-300 kilometers is visible very well. The surface of the earth looks approximately the same as when you are flying in jet aircraft at great altitudes. Mountain ranges, large rivers, forest massives, shore lines and islands are distinguishable very well. The clouds enveloping the earth and the shadows cast by them on the surface of the earth are also visible very well. The sky has a completely black color. The stars seem to be somewhat brighter and are more distinct on the background of this black sky. The earth has a very characteristic and a very beautiful aureol. This aureol is very distinct when you observe the horizon; there is a gradual transition from a faint blue color to light blue, blue, violet and completely black color of the sky. It is a very beautiful transition.

On emerging from the shadow of the earth the sun shone through the earth's atmosphere. And here this aureol assumed a somewhat different color. On the surface, on the horizon of the earth's surface it was possible to observe a bright orange color that subsequently transformed into all the colors of the rainbow, to the light blue, blue, violet and then to the black color of the sky.

The transition into the earth's shadow took place very quickly. The darkness sets in instantaneously and nothing is visible. I did not observe anything on the earth's surface at this time, nothing was visible, since, evidently, I was passing over the ocean. If there were large cities I would have probably seen the lights.

The stars are visible very clearly. I emerged from the earth's shadow just as rapidly and abruptly.

Because I was adequately prepared, I withstood the effects of the cosmic flight very well. I feel I am in excellent condition now.

I am very grateful to our Soviet designers, engineers and technicians, to the whole working Soviet people who created this wonderful ship "Vostok", its excellent equipment, and its exceptionally powerful rocket carrier that enables to put such huge ships into orbit.

I am boundlessly happy that my beloved fatherland is the first in the history of mankind to penetrate into the cosmos. The first airplane, the first sputnik, the first cosmic ship and now the first man in the cosmos - these are the great steps on the path of my motherland toward the conquest of the mysteries of nature. Our people have been led and are led toward this goal by Lenin's Communist Party. (Applause).

Throughout my education, life and work - in the trade school, in the industrial technical school, in the air club and in the aviation academy I felt continuously the care and attention of my beloved party, whose member and son I am. I would like to point out especially the loving human care that is being manifested in the Soviet Union by the Central Committee of the party, the Soviet government and our dear Nikita Sergeyeovich Khrushchev toward the simple folk. (Applause). Almost instantaneously, several minutes after landing on the sacred Soviet soil I received a congratulatory telegram from Nikita Sergeyeovich for the successful completion of the cosmic flight. Our flight we dedicated to our government, to our Communist party and to the XXII Congress of the Communist party.

We intend to fly a lot, resolutely and to conquer the cosmic space in the real manner. (Applause). We are always glad to hear about successful

scientific developments in other countries. We wish them good luck in the peaceful conquest of the cosmos and wish to cooperate with them in the peaceful exploration of the cosmic space. (Applause).

I personally wish to fly to Venus, to Mars, to really fly (Applause).

Academician N. M. Sisakyan makes his appearance.

Statement of N. M. Sisakyan

Man has always strived to investigate and conquer the celestial space. This idea took root in many folk stories, legends and brave dreams. One of these ideas, which was born in Greek mythology, tells us that Icarus, son of Daedalus, rose into the sky on wings glued with wax. He flew toward the sun, but when he neared the sun his wings melted. Icarus fell to the earth. The bold and daring thought continued to excite the creative genius of man and to serve as a source of exploration of the new paths in the conquest of the universe.

Balloons, aeroplanes, rockets and artificial earth satellites rose into the air ocean. Man acquired wings, fastened by the most durable alloy - laws of science. These laws not only enabled man to solidify his position of the earth, but enabled him to grow up paths to the cosmos.

Today we are recording an event of historical significance - the first cosmic flight of man. In this connection, special attention is due to the method of selection and training of the cosmonaut. Remember that the cosmonaut - a new profession, which made its appearance for the first time in history. The image of the Soviet cosmonaut is portrayed by the bravery of Aleksander Matrosov, the fortitude of Dzhalil' and by the staunchness of Zoya Kosmodem'yansky and

the iron will cultivate by the great party of Lenin.

The cosmonaut was educated with this Soviet effectiveness, and the science equipped him with the necessary knowledge to withstand steadfastly the difficulties of the flight. The selection of personnel, physically capable of undergoing cosmic flight, and their special scientific preparation and training are new problems. During the study of these questions the scientists based their consideration on the special peculiarities of the cosmic flight, on the results of numerous preceding biological experiments, on the knowledge of conditions existing during the flight and the activity of man in the cabin of the cosmic ship, as well as on the reactions that could be expected from the cosmonaut during the flight. Naturally, the cosmonaut had to be an absolutely healthy man, with a high level of intellectual development and technological knowledge. It is necessary to select a man with a strong will power who is capable in a tense situation, in a short period of time, to evaluate quickly and correctly the situation and to make correct decisions and carry them out immediately.

The method of selecting cosmonauts also included a thorough study of the candidates in stationary conditions of the clinic. The selection of cosmonauts for cosmic flight also utilized special methods of investigation for determining, with sufficient accuracy, the capabilities of the man's organism and his adaptability to the unfavorable factors of the external medium. These tests were carried out in centrifuges, vibrational stands, in thermal chambers, pressure chambers, in conditions of prolonged isolation and restriction of motion in sound-proof devices, which excluded the penetration of external irritations (noise, light, etc.).

Psychological investigations were an important factor in the selection of

the cosmonaut. The preparations consisted in the study of theoretical questions connected with the problems of the forthcoming flight, as well as in the acquaintance of the cosmonaut with the practical methods of handling the equipment in the cosmic ship, scientific-experimental instruments etc.

The cosmonaut acquired thorough knowledge about many special questions connected with the dynamics of flight of jet propelled apparatuses, physics of cosmic space, and the effect of flight factors on the organism of man. It is absolutely clear that great importance was attached to the physical development of the cosmonaut during his preparation for the flight.

The physical training was directed toward a specific goal. Standard methods and facilities used in the physical culture and sports were incorporated into the training. In order to perfect all the physical qualities that are especially necessary to the man in cosmic flight, emphasis was placed on increasing the resistance of the organism to the action of acceleration, on the development and perfection of techniques for effortless control of the body in space, and on other finer coordinating motions. The ability to withstand prolonged physical stresses was increased without lowering the efficiency, and astronaut's self-control qualities were strengthened.

In addition, an important role was played by a system of special training, whose basic problem was to acquaint the astronaut with conditions that were expected to arise during the flight, i. e., to acquaint him as much as possible with the peculiarities of the cosmic flight in laboratory conditions on the earth and in aeroplane flights.

This was perhaps the cosmonaut's most important stage of preparation, and the most difficult.

Thus, the cosmonaut's preparation for cosmic flight was a complex scientific problem. However, notwithstanding its entire complexity and exceptional difficulty, it was, as we see, successfully solved.

Today with great joy and pride we congratulate our dear compatriot, the first cosmonaut - Yuriy Alekseyevich Gagarin, who accomplished this unprecedented feat. This feat is of worldwide historic significance.

He was prepared by the collective heroism of our scientists, workers, engineers and technical workers, and by the selfless toil of our people under the leadership of the Communist party of the Soviet Union.

Thus, the way to the cosmos is open. A great work has been completed and a great victory has been achieved. New, unusually wide opportunities are now open to our science: man must not only penetrate, but he must entrench himself in space and conquer the universe.

The next speaker is a member of the Academy of Medical Sciences,
V. V. Parin.

Statement of V. V. Parin

The preparation of man for the first cosmic flight required considerable effort on the part of the creative forces of a large collective of doctors, physiologists, biologists and psychologists.

The flight of man into the cosmos was preceeded by an extensive work of launchings of the first Soviet sputniks populated with animals: dogs, small animals and other biological objects. These historical experiments yielded not only exceptionally important scientific information about the effects of cosmic flight on the living organisms, but also helped to develop a system of medical

control. These studies enabled us to select not only the most reliable and effective methods of investigating and recording physiological functions, but mainly, to create systems that would guarantee the safety of the flight and safe return of the cosmic ship to the earth.

The scientists created a special apparatus for continuous automatic control of the important physiological parameters of the medium and functional reactions of the organisms. This equipment, as is well known, underwent successful tests in the preceding cosmic flights of sputnik-ships.

In this manner the medical-biological aspects of the upcoming flight were taken care of.

Nonetheless, the task of the group which prepared the cosmonaut was difficult, and without precedent. However the task was considerably simplified by the remarkable creativity of the cosmonaut himself, who has become a genuine scientific worker and co-author with many scientific associates. The basic problem was that of developing methods for an objective check of the condition of man. Scientists developed a single system for checking the state of the physiological functions, in particular breathing and blood circulation both during the pre-launch period and during the flight.

The basic problem was to prepare man for the pre-launch period. Intensified medical control, special feeding, systematic studies, under earth conditions using flight methods, all assured unity and successiveness in obtaining most valuable scientific information, and also made it possible to obtain the necessary initial data for further analysis of the phenomena which characterize the reaction of man's organisms in flight.

Investigation of the biocurrents of the brain and muscles, detailed EKG studies, vectorcardiography and many other processes assured the required amount and scope of the necessary control of the state of health of the cosmonaut during the pre-launch period. At the same time, medical and psychological observations were made, there were biological and immunological tests to control the nervous-emotional state of the cosmonaut.

Gagarin's health was continually checked during the entire flight. In addition to personal radio communications as to his feelings, Gagarin's pulse and respiration was checked by radiotelemeter systems.

The valuable experience gained from telemetry on 12 April 1961 will be used to benefit all mankind. Telemetry is a new branch of science, including the most recent achievements of medicine and radioelectronics. It is hard to overestimate the value of the objective data from biotelemetry in assuring the safety for a successful flight. Simple convenient data units were placed in the cosmonaut's coveralls; these were used to convert the physiological parameters - the biocurrents of the heart, the pulse variations of the vascular walls, the respiratory movement of the chest cavity, etc., into electrical signals. Special amplification and measuring systems were used to assure that impulses would be transmitted that would characterize the respiration and circulation for all stages of the flight.

Preliminary data obtained from the processing of radiotelemeter information, have shown that from a medical point of view, Gagarin's flight was without incident. His pulse and respiration during the actual flight and during the takeoff were approximately the same as during prolonged gymnastics. During weightlessness his pulse and respiration were completely normal.

Thus, the first attempt at using biotelemetry for medical control during cosmic flight was highly successful. This indicates that the efforts of our scientists in this field are proceeding along the right lines, and new successes are to be expected.

In conclusion it should be mentioned that history's first cosmic flight has produced valuable data on man's state in the cosmic, and has affirmed the prognosis of Soviet scientists not only as to the possibility of man's flight in the cosmos but also the possibility of his retaining his creativity and his various activities.

A great part in this is played by the group of scientists and workers, and a great and heroic role is played by the exceptional Soviet citizen Yuri Gagarin, his friends, his wife and relatives.

Academician E. K. Fedorov will devote his address to the international significance of this first cosmic flight.

Address by E. K. Fedorov

What will be said here concerns only the first information on the flight of comrade Gagarin. Various reports and other scientific data will be published at a future date.

All of us here will long remember this meeting with Yuri Gagarin, the first cosmonaut. The world admires his courage and the manner in which he undertook the first flight into the cosmos.

Although Gagarin was alone beyond the earth's atmosphere, he had the support of many workers, engineers, and scientists who created the space ship

and assured his flight.

When the first Soviet sputnik was launched, many foreigners, indeed some of the very ones present at this conference, considered that this was the result of a single Soviet success. Now they must think otherwise. In the short time between the first sputnik and this flight it has become clear to all that the Soviet success in the cosmos is the result of the regular orderly development of science and technology in a socialist country.

The Central Committee of the Communist Party, the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR and the Council of Ministers of the USSR have stressed that the Soviet people should consider this victory in the cosmos not only as their achievement, but that of all mankind.

(The following nine paragraphs are pure propaganda)

The journalists expressed great interest in the details of the flight of the first cosmonaut. Many questions were posed at the press-conference, not only by foreign journalists, but by the Soviet press as well.

Academician Nesmeyanov has already mentioned that several of the questions had to do with whether this was the first attempt to send a man into space. This was in reference to reports which had appeared in the western press.

He stated that there were no previous attempts of this nature. Gagarin was the first, and his flight was successful (Applause).

To the question of whether it was necessary to send a man into space, Nesmeyanov answered: "If there were no flight, how could man reach other planets in the future?"

QUESTION: Khrushchev stated that this cosmic flight is the first Soviet

swallow. When can the next swallow be expected?

NESMEYANOV: Swallows usually fly in the spring.

QUESTION: Why has the USSR outdistanced the US in the assimilation of space?

NESMEYANOV: There are many reasons, as in many complex phenomena. Tsiolkovskiy, even in prerevolutionary Russia, first developed the theory of space flight. But the main reason is the possibility of the better organization of scientific-technical operations in a socialist government than in a government with private interests and many contradictory interests. . .

Next came Gagarin's press-conference. He stated that there exist various methods for landing, including parachute landing methods. In his flight the pilot remained in the ship, the landing was successful and all landing systems operated successfully.

QUESTION: Will there be published photographs of the earth's surface, taken from the "Vostok?"

GAGARIN: The "Vostok" contained no photographic apparatus and therefore there are no photographs.

Gagarin also noted that he did not experience hunger or thirst during the flight.

QUESTION: When were you informed that you were the first candidate for the space flight?

GAGARIN: I was told in good time that I was the first candidate (Laughter, applause).

Gagarin then indicated the major role that radio communication played in the space flight. He was in constant contact with the ground, received commands, transmitted information from on board the ship, and felt that he was not alone

on the ship, that he had the support of the people, government and party.

The press was interested in Gagarin's weight. He stated that before the flight he weighed 69.5 kilograms (153 pounds) and that his weight remained the same.

He reported that the ship covered several thousand kilometers during the descent. This can be seen from the fact that the braking unit was switched in at 1025 hours and that he landed at 1055 hours.

QUESTION: Did you make any preliminary flights in ballistic rockets?

GAGARIN: No, I did not.

QUESTION: Since you, a family man, the father of two children, were sent on this space flight, does this mean that both you and the government were certain that the flight would proceed smoothly?

GAGARIN: I would like to change the words "sent on" to "entrusted with." I am very happy and proud that I was entrusted with the flight. No one doubted that "everything would operate" and the flight would be successfully accomplished, not the government, nor the scientists, nor the engineers, no even I myself.
(Applause).

QUESTION: Did you take any talismans with you, and did you have any photographs of your family on board?

GAGARIN: I do not believe in talismans, goodluck charms, or the like. I took no photographs with me because I was firmly convinced that I would return to earth and see my family (Applause).

QUESTION: Can the space ship or any of its components be used again for flight?

GAGARIN: This question should by rights be directed to our technicians

(The methods we have will not reproduce the following pictures too well)



At the presidium of the press-conference in honor of the successful accomplishment of the first space flight by a Soviet citizen on the "Vostok".



There are no princes in my family tree!



I do not believe in talismans, goodluck charms,
or the like.



I could have remained aloft for a much longer period of time.



I am ready to undertake any new tasks.



In the press-conference hall.



K. E. Tsiolkovskiy medal awarded to Yuri. A. Gagarin
by the Presidium of the Academy of Sciences, USSR.

and engineers. But I believe I am correct in stating that the entire ship and its equipment can be used again for space flight (Loud applause).

A South American correspondent at the conference asked Gagarin how this continent appeared. Gagarin answered that it is quite beautiful, which drew a round of applause.

In response to a question, our hero answered that in accordance with the Soviet plans for the assimilation of space, pilots-cosmonauts are in training. Applause greeted his statement: "I believe that they are quite ready for flights into space."

Gagarin gave an affirmative answer to the question of whether he fulfilled the flight program in its entirety.

QUESTION: Would a more lengthy flight in space cause any inconveniences for the pilot?

GAGARIN: From what I experienced while in flight I could conclude subjectively that a space flight could last much longer.

QUESTION: Has your flight strengthened your political convictions? Has it supported your ideas on the necessity for complete and controlled disarmament? Why?

GAGARIN: It is difficult for me to add anything to what Academician Fedorov has said. I believe he answered that question fully.

In answer to a question regarding his feelings on his return to earth, Gagarin stated:

It is hard to express my feelings - joy, pride, happy that I had made the flight, that I had fulfilled the task with which I had been honored. There was

joy in knowing that the flight had been made in the Soviet Union, that progressive Soviet science had moved still further forward.

QUESTION: Do you receive pay, and did you get any special reward for your flight?

GAGARIN: I am paid, just as the Soviet people are paid, quite sufficiently to satisfy all my needs. I was awarded the Hero of the Soviet Union medal. This is the highest honor in our country.

QUESTION: Do you think that you will make a second space flight or will this be done by someone else?

GAGARIN: I have already stated that I am prepared to undertake anything the Party, government and people require. I would be happy and honored if I were to make a second flight. But there are many of us who are clamoring to go.

The final question was: Could you fly to the moon on the "Vostok"?

GAGARIN: The "Vostok" is not intended for lunar flight. We have special ships for this.

The press-conference lasted for two hours.