



ASTRONAUTS Charles Conrad and Alan Bean, who will be flight commander and lunar module pilot of the Apollo 12 space flight.

NEXT TRIP TO MOON PLANNED FOR NOVEMBER

THE UNITED STATES will almost certainly put more men on the moon next November—and three lunar landings are due to follow it, space officials said in Houston today.

The November Apollo 12 mission will be commanded by veteran spaceman Charles Conrad. The other three landings will follow, probably at intervals of two or three months, in 1970.

Each mission will explore a different area of the moon and will carry increasingly sophisticated gear designed to tell scientists more about earth's natural satellites.

Gen. Samuel Phillips, director of the Apollo lunar landing programme, told reporters that, following the successful return of Apollo 11 to earth on Thursday, Apollo 12 would be given the go-ahead for the second lunar landing in November.

A NEWCOMER

With Conrad—who has made two previous space flights in Gemini 5 (1965) and Gemini 11 (1966)—will be Richard Gordon, who flew with Conrad in Gemini 11, and Alan Bean (37), who has not yet been into space as a crewman.

All three were the back-up crew for the Apollo 9 flight, which tested the American lunar landing craft in March.

The crew for the other missions have not yet been chosen.

Lt.-Gen. Phillips explained that Apollo 12, now being prepared in the assembly building at the Cape Kennedy moonport in Florida, was scheduled for launch in September "as a repeat attempt at a first lunar landing" had anything gone wrong with Apollo 11.

However, he had told Mr Rocco Petrone, director of launch operations at Cape Kennedy, that "if Apollo 11 was on the way back for a successful landing on July 23, when we were scheduled to roll it out (on to the launch pad) he should not roll it (Apollo 12) out."

NEW SITE

Lt.-Gen. Phillips said the giant Saturn Five rocket and spacecraft would remain in the assembly building for the time being.

The next landing, he added, would probably be made on a site in one of the mares (seas) in the western half of the moon's visible face. The Apollo 11 astronauts touched down in the Sea of Tranquility, in the east central part of the moon's face.

Mr Robert Gilruth, director of the manned spacecraft

centre at Houston, said he had been surprised at the apparent ease with which Apollo 11 astronauts Neil Armstrong and Edwin Aldrin had been able to walk about on the lunar surface.

EASY WALK

"They had more mobility, they were able to move faster and with greater ease than some of us expected."

Mr Gilruth said Armstrong and Aldrin had only used between one half and one third of the oxygen and cooling water in their spacesuits that might have been expected during their moon walk.

Their metabolic rate (consumption of energy) suggested that man should be capable of roaming further from his base on future missions than had been expected.

Apollo 11 heads for home

THE APOLLO 11 astronauts broke out of lunar orbit and set course for home today, after carrying out man's first expedition on the surface of the moon.

Earlier today the Apollo spacecraft had reappeared from behind the moon right on schedule, having successfully fired its main engine to blast out of lunar orbit.

The spacecraft disappeared behind the moon last night for the last time before firing the main engine.

The three astronauts signed off early this morning and turned in for a good sleep as their spacecraft headed home.

REST PERIOD

They finally started their rest period at about 08.45 BST. At that time Apollo 11 was more than 7,050 nautical miles from the moon, travelling at 4,860ft. per second towards the earth.

Mission control in Houston, Texas, said the scheduled rest period was 10 hours, but it had been decided to let the astronauts sleep until they woke up of their own accord.

M.P.s praise moonmen's courage

MR PATRICK WALL, MP for Haltemprice, was last night one of seven Conservative sponsors of a motion tabled in the Commons "saluting the courage" of the first men to land on the moon.

The motion also "congratulates the United States Government and the entire Apollo team on the imagination and high technical skills that made this historic feat possible, and further expresses the conviction that in exploring outer space men will find better methods of safeguarding world peace and improving the human condition."