

TO APOLLO SPACECRAFT COMMANDER
FROM WHITE HOUSE



FOR RELEASE TO WORLD PRESS

E M B A R G O E D UNTIL APOLLO MISSION/LIFTOFF IS CERTIFIED 'GO' BY
KENNEDY CONTROL

MESSAGE BEGINS:

ON THIS HISTORIC OCCASION WE SHOULD REMEMBER THE WORDS OF PRESIDENT JOHN F. KENNEDY ON MAY 25, 1961. QUOTE: I BELIEVE THAT THIS NATION SHOULD COMMIT ITSELF TO ACHIEVING THE GOAL, BEFORE THIS DECADE IS OUT, OF LANDING A MAN ON THE MOON AND RETURNING HIM SAFELY TO THE EARTH. NO SINGLE SPACE PROJECT IN THIS PERIOD WILL BE MORE IMPRESSIVE TO MANKIND, OR MORE IMPORTANT FOR THE LONG-RANGE EXPLORATION OF SPACE; AND NONE WILL BE SO DIFFICULT OR EXPENSIVE TO ACCOMPLISH.

WE HAVE SHOWN, BY EXPENSIVE AND LIMITLESS APPLICATION TO THE APOLLO PROGRAMME, THAT WE CAN LEAD MAN'S INITIATIVE TO UNDERSTAND HIS UNENDING ENVIRONMENTS. END OF QUOTE.

WE HAVE NOW REACHED THE HIGH WATERMARK OF THAT FAMOUS NATIONAL DEDICATION. YOU, AS COMMANDER OF THE APOLLO SPACECRAFT, AND YOUR TWO COMPANIONS, ARE THE PRIVILEGED CITIZENS OF THIS GREAT NATION AND INDEED OF THE WORLD, IN THAT YOU ARE TAKING THIS DEFINITIVE STEP TOWARDS A LANDING ON THE MOON.

IF YOUR MISSION IS SUCCESSFUL, AND THERE IS NO DOUBT THAT YOUR SKILL WILL MAKE IT SO, YOU WILL RETURN TO EARTH WITH PRICELESS SAMPLES FROM THE MOON, THAT WILL POINT THE WAY TO FURTHER INVESTIGATION OF SPACE.

YOU GO ON YOUR JOURNEY WITH THE GOODWILL AND BLESSING OF YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN AND OF THE WORLD. ALL OF US WISH YOU GOD'S SPEED AND SAFE RETURN. YOU CARRY WITH YOU OUR NATIONAL NEED TO PROVE THAT WE CAN INVEST IN FREEDOM AN EVER-INCREASING KNOWLEDGE OF MAN'S LIMITLESS CAPABILITIES.

COME HOME SAFELY!