

# EARTH LOOKING JUST LIKE THE MOON

From RONALD BEDFORD

CAPE KENNEDY, Monday

MILLIONS of viewers tonight saw incredible pictures of the earth taken by the three astronauts in America's Apollo-8 spacecraft, speeding towards the moon.

In these pictures, flashed on to BBC television screens soon after 9 pm., the earth was shown in far clearer detail than it was last night.

Ground control at Houston, Texas, asked the spacemen—Frank Borman, James Lovell and William Anders—to manoeuvre their camera for a clear picture.

Earth appeared as a gleaming three-quarter "moon." A section was obscured because of the spacecraft's position.

Soon after the pictures were shown, the astronauts crossed the "great divide" of space travel.

They entered the moon's gravitational influence and became the first men to pass into the "pull" of a body other than earth.

When the pictures came over the astronauts could still make out details of the face of the earth. Borman, the Apollo's commander, told of heavy cloud extending "from the entrance to the Gulf of Mexico straight out across the Atlantic Ocean."

He also gave a word-picture of the colours presented by the earth to the astronaut in outer space:

"Areas of water are a royal blue, the clouds snowy white of course... and the land areas are generally brownish, a light brown in texture."

## 'CURIOUS'

During the transmission navigator Lovell mused aloud: "I keep imagining from that I'm some traveller from another planet, and wondering what I'd think about the earth at this altitude—whether I'd think it was inhabited or not."

"I'm just getting curious whether I would land on the blue or the brown part of the earth."

Borman chimed in: "You'd better hope we land on the blue part."

The Houston centre signed off by thanking the astronauts and saying: "See you manana" (tomorrow). The spacemen replied: "O K, earth."

Borman and Lovell, both 40, and Anders, 34, were all said to be in good physical shape. Yesterday Borman and Anders had flu symptoms.

Today, with the spaceship about 200,000 miles out, Anders and Lovell complained only about difficulty in sleeping. Each took a pill to help.

## A BURST

Tomorrow morning a burst from Apollo's engine will swing the craft into orbit 69 miles above the moon's surface.

Before this manoeuvre the spacecraft will be travelling at 5,741 mph. Borman will have to slow it to 3,737 to go into orbit.

At Houston, flight controller Gene Lunney said: "Everything with the spacecraft and the people looks good for the lunar orbit."

He added: "The crew sound real good, real chipper."

From out in space, Borman made it clear he would not commit Apollo to a lunar orbit unless he was satisfied everything was perfect.

## 'HAPPINESS'

Even if they fail to get into lunar orbit, the astronauts must make a sweep behind the moon—and become the first humans to see for themselves what the "hidden" side looks like.

If all goes well, there will be 10 orbits of the moon before Apollo breaks away on Christmas Day and prepares for splashdown in the Pacific on Friday.

Once again today there was homely chat between the Houston control centre and the spacecraft.

Lovell reported: "We all feel fine. Nobody's sick."

He described their breakfast menu — fruit cocktail, bacon squares, cinnamon toasted bread cubes, cocoa and orange drink.

"Happiness," quipped Lovell, "is having bacon cubes for breakfast."



The world last night... as seen by the spacemen and millions of TV viewers.

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