



**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND
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NASA AND SOVIET MEDICAL AGREEMENT

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Soviet Academy of Sciences have agreed on the substance and mechanics of future exchanges of medical and biological data on their experience in manned space flight.

The details of the recently approved agreement are contained in recommendations of a joint working group on space biology and medicine which met in Moscow October 9-13, pursuant to the agreement of January 21, 1971 between NASA and the Academy of Sciences of the USSR on space cooperation.

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December 27, 1971

The Joint Working Group began an examination of selected biomedical data and the results of manned flight programs and exchanged reports on the Soyuz and Apollo programs. Special consideration was focused on the following aspects of the biomedical results of manned flight: the cardiovascular system, metabolism, water-electrolyte exchange, statokinetic apparatus, performance, vestibular apparatus and biological research.

In the interest of expanded and more regular exchange of space biomedical data, the working group recommended that meetings be held at least once a year or more frequently should the need arise. These meetings will include the exchange of pre-, post- and inflight data in sufficient detail to assure a full understanding of the flight experience of each country from a physiological and medical viewpoint. Directly related research will also be discussed when it is pertinent.

The working group also recommended that working sessions be held at which experts would consider such topics as:

- Methods of predicting the state of the human organism during and after space flights with a view to developing common predictions.

- Response of the following systems to the space flight environment: cardiovascular, endocrine, fluid and electrolyte balance and central nervous.
- Techniques of dysbarism prevention in crew members applicable to various decompression condition.
- Methods of pre- and postflight medical observations of flight crew members with a view to proposing common usage.
- Objectives, methods, and results of biological experiments, including developmental and genetic research, with a view to coordinating US and Soviet programs.

The joint working group recommended that the next meeting be held in May 1972 in the US to consider, in addition to flight data, methods of predicting the state of the human organism during and after space flights, methods of pre- and postflight medical observations of flight crew members, and recommendations to achieve the consistent use of terminology. It also recommended that the co-chairmen explore the possibility of an exchange of one or two appropriate specialists to work in laboratories doing similar biomedical research in space programs of the US and the USSR.

- 4 -

Co-chairmen of the Working Group are Dr. Charles A. Berry, NASA Director for Life Sciences, and Dr. N. N. Gurovskiy of the USSR Ministry of Health and the Academy of Sciences.

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