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March 21, 1985

Mr. William E. Thornton
NASA Astronaut
National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center
CB/Astronaut Office
Houston, Texas 77058

Dear Bill:

I was delighted to see from your announcement of February 5th, 1985 that you will be a member of the crew of "Space Lab 3".

Unfortunately, prior commitments will prevent me from attending the launch, although I certainly would have loved to have done so since I have never seen one, other than on television.

My colleagues join with me in wishing you and the rest of the crew a good and productive flight.

Kindest personal regards,


Mario A. Martella

MAM/bl