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APOLLO 8-13 WA

URGENT

1ST LD 226A

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UPI SPACE WRITER

SPACE CENTER, HOUSTON (UPI)--THE APOLLO 15 ASTRONAUTS SUFFERED FROM DIZZINESS, MINOR HEART IRREGULARITIES AND UNUSUAL DIFFICULTY IN READAPTING TO EARTH'S GRAVITY AFTER THEIR 12-DAY FLIGHT TO THE MOON, THEIR DOCTOR REPORTED FRIDAY.

DR. CHARLES A. BERRY SAID NONE OF THE PROBLEMS WAS OF ANY SERIOUS MEDICAL CONCERN FOR ASTRONAUTS DAVID R. SCOTT, ALFRED M. WORDEN AND JAMES B. IRWIN.

BUT HE SAID THE MEDICAL RESULTS OF APOLLO 15'S FLIGHT COULD BE IMPORTANT FOR THE FUTURE ROLE OF MAN IN SPACE.

ONE RESULT, BERRY SAID, WAS THAT DOCTORS WERE CONSIDERING SHORTENING THE FIRST LUNAR SURFACE EXCURSION PLANNED FOR THE APOLLO 16 MISSION NEXT MARCH TO REDUCE THE ASTRONAUTS' FATIGUE.

"WE CAN SAY MEDICALLY THAT WE HAVE HAD A BONANZA FROM THIS PARTICULAR FLIGHT AS THE SCIENTISTS HAVE HAD WITH THE ROCK SAMPLES THEY HAVE GOTTEN BACK," BERRY SAID. "IT'S NOT THE TYPE OF BONANZA I THINK ANY OF US WOULD REALLY ASK FOR.

"THINGS WERE ALL GOING IN A CERTAIN PATTERN AND NOW THESE PEOPLE DON'T FIT THE PATTERN. THAT'S WHAT HUMAN BEINGS DO TO US ALL THE TIME."

THE THREE ASTRONAUTS, MEANWHILE, TOLD THE APOLLO 16 CREW AND NEWLY-NAMED APOLLO 17 GEOLOGIST HARRISON H. SCHMITT WHAT TO EXPECT ON THE MOON NEXT YEAR ON THE FINAL TWO LUNAR MISSIONS IN THE APOLLO PROGRAM.

MOST OF THE MEDICAL PROBLEMS CONCERNED IRWIN. BERRY SAID THE ASTRONAUT, MAKING HIS FIRST SPACEFLIGHT, EXPERIENCED SOME DIZZY SENSATIONS ON THE THREE-DAY FLIGHT TO THE MOON. THEY DISAPPEARED AFTER HE LANDED, BUT RETURNED AFTER LAST SATURDAY'S SPLASHDOWN.

"I DON'T MEAN THAT HE FEELS LIKE HE HAS ANY FEELING THAT HE IS SPINNING," BERRY SAID. "IT'S SORT OF AN UNEASY FEELING THAT IF HE DOES MOVE SUDDENLY HE FEELS IN A SENSE LIGHTHEADED."

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APOLLO 8-13 WA

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IRWIN ALSO REPORTED THAT HE FELT THROUGH WEDNESDAY NIGHT THAT HE WAS TILTED AT A 30-DEGREE ANGLE WHEN HE WAS LYING FLAT IN BED AT NIGHT.

"TODAY, HE WOKE UP LEVEL, SO HE'S LEVEL NOW," BERRY SAID AT AN HOUR-LONG NEWS CONFERENCE.

THE DOCTOR ATTRIBUTED THESE PHENOMENA TO A SLOW PROCESS OF GETTING USED TO THE PULL OF GRAVITY ON EARTH AFTER THE BODY ADAPTS TO THE LACK OF GRAVITY IN SPACE.

DOCTORS ALSO NOTED DURING THE FLIGHT THAT IRWIN AND SCOTT HAD BRIEF HEART BEAT IRREGULARITIES. THIS HAD NOT BEEN NOTICED BEFORE SINCE THE INITIAL U.S. EARTH ORBITAL FLIGHT OF JOHN GLENN IN 1962. BERRY SAID THIS WAS CAUSED BY FATIGUE AND WAS OF NO CONCERN TO THE HEALTH OF THE ASTRONAUTS.

ALL THREE ASTRONAUTS ARE TAKING LONGER TO RETURN TO NORMAL STRENGTH AFTER THEIR FLIGHT. IN SPACE, THE HEART DOES NOT HAVE TO WORK AS HARD BECAUSE THERE IS NO GRAVITY AND IT GETS LAZY. WHEN IT FEELS THE GRAVITY OF EARTH AGAIN, IT TAKES TIME TO READAPT TO THE INCREASED WORK LOAD.

WORDEN RETURNED TO HIS PREFLIGHT NORMAL BY THURSDAY, BUT BERRY SAID IRWIN AND SCOTT STILL WERE NOT COMPLETELY BACK TO NORMAL FRIDAY AS FAR AS THEIR EXERCISE TOLERANCE WAS CONCERNED. THEY COULD STILL NOT DO AS MUCH WITH A SPECIFIC HEART RATE AND OXYGEN INTAKE AS THEY COULD BEFORE THEIR JULY 26 LAUNCH.

BERRY EMPHASIZED THAT THE DIFFERENCES WERE SLIGHT, BUT HE SAID, "THESE FINDINGS ARE NOT TOTALLY EXPLAINABLE AS FAR AS WE'RE CONCERNED."

APOLLO 15 WAS THE NATION'S SECOND LONGEST SPACEFLIGHT. IT FELL 36 HOURS SHORT OF THE 14-DAY MISSION OF GEMINI 7 IN 1966. SOVIET COSMONAUTS HAVE REPORTED MORE SEVERE DEBILITATING EFFECTS AFTER 18 DAYS IN SPACE.

THE UNITED STATES PLANS TO LAUNCH A SKYLAB SPACE STATION IN 1973 TO FURTHER EXAMINE MAN'S ABILITY TO ENDURE SPACEFLIGHT AND PERFORM USEFUL WORK THERE. SKYLAB MISSIONS WILL KEEP MAN IN SPACE FOR AS LONG AS EIGHT WEEKS.

VIRTUALLY THE ENTIRE ASTRONAUT CORPS SAT IN ON THE DAY-LONG BRIEFING CONDUCTED BY SCOTT, WORDEN AND IRWIN FRIDAY.

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1629 : APOLLO -- ASTRONAUTS (2)5) :

HOUSTON, AUG. 13, REUTER -- THE APOLLO 15 ASTRONAUTS HAVE STILL NOT FULLY RECOVERED FROM THEIR 12-DAY MISSION TO THE MOON, THE CHIEF SPACE AGENCY PHYSICIAN, DR. CHARLES BERRY, DISCLOSED TO

DR. BERRY SAID THE ASTRONAUTS' REACTIONS TO PHYSICAL TESTS WERE WORSE THAN THEY HAD BEEN BEFORE THE MISSION, INDICATING THAT THE TEMPORARY HEART AND CIRCULATION PROBLEMS ASSOCIATED WITH LONG SPACE FLIGHTS WERE STILL PE

SISTING.

HE ALSO DISCLOSED THAT ASTRONAUT JAMES B. IRWIN SUFFERED SPELLS OF DIZZINESS ON HIS WAY TO THE MOON AND AFTER HIS RETURN TO EARTH. BOTH IRWIN AND MISSION COMMANDER DAVID R. SCOTT SHOWED SIGNS OF HEART IRREGULARITY WHILE IN LUNAR ORBIT AFTER THEIR SURFACE EXPLORATION, BUT THE DOCTORS THOUGHT THIS WAS DUE TO FATIGUE.

DR. BERRY SAID, HOWEVER, THAT, IN GENERAL, ALL THREE ASTRONAUTS WERE WELL AND ADDED THAT "THERE IS NO MEDICAL DANGER."

DR. BERRY SAID THAT IT WAS NOW REALIZED THAT THE CREW HAD BEEN MUCH MORE

FATIGUED THAN EVER THEY THEMSELVES HAD THOUGHT, AND CONSIDERATION WAS BEING GIVEN TO SHORTENING THE AMOUNT OF ACTIVITY REQUIRED OF THE APOLLO 16 LUNAR EXPLORERS DURING THEIR MISSION NEXT MARCH.

THE SPACE AGENCY HAS STILL NOT DECIDED WHETHER TO RELAX THE STRENUOUS TWO WEEKS OF DEBRIEFING SESSIONS FOR SCOTT, IRWIN AND ALFRED M. WORDEN. THEY ARE NOT DUE FOR A DAY OFF IN THE NEXT 10 DAYS.

REUTER LEN/HTA.