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August 18, 1965

Mr. James E. Webb  
 Administrator  
 National Aeronautics and  
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 Washington, D. C.

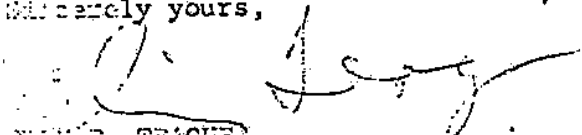
Dear Jim:

Much discussion is now taking place on the possibility of a circumlunar flight using a Gemini spacecraft prior to the Apollo lunar landing.

We would appreciate your point of view as to this as a possible program. Further, if additional funds were available, would you feel that a Gemini circumlunar flight should be accomplished or such funds used in the Apollo program?

Your comment will be of assistance to the continuing review of our National Space Program by the Oversight Subcommittee.

Sincerely yours,

  
 JOHN E. TEAGUE  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on  
 NASA Oversight

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 Action Copy to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Info Copy to \_\_\_\_\_ AA  
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# Circumlunar Flight

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Aero-Astro  
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Ref: Gemini  
Apollo

September 10, 1965

Honorable Olin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NAA (Overflight)  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With reference to your request for my views on the possibility of a circumlunar flight, using a Gemini system, prior to the Apollo lunar landing, you will note that the enclosed statement, which was submitted to the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences on August 23, indicates that in the process of accomplishing the lunar exploration mission with Apollo, our program will give us experienced crews, operating know-how, and the ground and space equipment to undertake quite a number of other scientific and technological developments. The point is also made that our on-going and approved missions will require, for the next several years, the peak performance of the scientific, engineering, industrial and facilities complex that we have been expanding since 1961.

As indicated to the Senate Committee, we are not ready to recommend major new projects on the order of Gemini or Apollo. Our main objective now is to see that our basic current responsibilities are met effectively. I also feel that the Apollo system now being developed can meet our requirements for knowledge and capability better than the adoption of other courses of action.

The insertion in our program of a circumlunar flight, using the Gemini system, would require major resources. We are now proceeding with many complex developmental, test, and operational efforts with too thin a margin of resources. Therefore, if additional funds were available, I believe it would be in the national interest to use these in the Apollo program.

As you will remember, I testified in 1961 that the USSR would most likely have the capability and therefore accomplish ahead of us each major milestone in space up to the lunar landing and exploration with manned vehicles. We have clearly stated over the past

CONCURRENCES: few years that they will do a lunar fly-by with men before we can accomplish this with the Apollo system. However, there is certainly

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x Ref: Circumlunar Flight

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Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
James E. Webb

James E. Webb  
Administrator

cc:

- AD/Dr. Dryden
- AA/Dr. Seamans
- AC/Mr. Callaghan
- AO/Col. Vogel

CONCURRENCES: A/Webb/erc/9-10-65

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Honorable Olin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NASA Oversight  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With regard to your letter of August 14, 1965, Gemini circumlunar flight has been considered and evaluated.

It appears technically feasible to upgrade the Gemini system to perform the circumlunar flight. However, the timing of this effort is such that it would certainly require a crash effort to show an appreciable time advantage over the Apollo flights.

We are proceeding in an orderly manner towards not only landing on the moon but developing a strong, balanced capability in space. As I stated in my testimony before the Senate Aeronautical and Space Science Committee on August 23rd, the planned lunar effort which includes the unmanned Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor is designed to provide the required information for the manned Apollo lunar landing. We do not think it would be wise to divert our efforts from this goal to undertake a separate program to achieve the more limited circumlunar objective.

In the event that additional funds were made available to the agency we feel that it would be most beneficial to apply these funds to the mainstream Apollo effort to bolster our ability to meet our present commitments, rather than initiating a competitive effort.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and hope that we have answered your questions satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

Rewritten: CSB:rqr:9/8/65

A-5619

CONCURRENCES:

Walter D. Webb  
Administrator

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AC:CSK  
A-5619

Honorable Clin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NASA Oversight  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

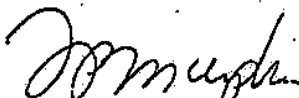
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Committee on August 23, the planned lunar effort which  
includes the unmanned Lunar Orbiter and Surveyor is  
designed to provide the required information for the  
manned Apollo lunar landing. I do not think it would  
be wise to divert our efforts from this goal to under-  
take a separate crash program to achieve the more  
limited circumlunar objective.

CONCURRENCE:

  
Richard L. Callaghan  
AC

*Concur AD*  
*Dryden*  
*9/3/65*  
*RCS*  
Robert C. Seamans, Jr.  
AA

In the event that additional funds were made available to the agency we feel that it would be most beneficial to apply these funds to the minimum Apollo effort to bolster our ability to meet our present commitments, rather than initiating a competitive effort.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and hope that we have answered your questions satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

James E. Webb  
Administrator

cc: 40

A-5619

4

*Teague Desk*

*8/13/66*

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COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 SUITE 2317 - 5 FAYETTE HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 18, 1965

Mr. James E. Webb  
 Administrator  
 National Aeronautics and  
 Space Administration  
 Washington, D. C.

Dear Jim:

Much discussion is now taking place on the possibility of  
 a circumlunar flight using Gemini system prior to the Apollo  
 lunar landing.

We would appreciate your point of view as to this as a  
 possible program. Further, if additional funds were available,  
 would you feel that a Gemini circumlunar flight should be accom-  
 plished or such funds used in the Apollo program?

Your comment will be of assistance to the continuing review  
 of our National Space Program by the Oversight Subcommittee.

Sincerely yours,

OLIN E. TEAGUE  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on  
 NASA Oversight

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*AA  
PT  
Procurement*

M/Associate Administrator for Manned Space Flight

June 12, 1964

AA/Associate Administrator

Proposed Gemini Circumlunar Mission Study.

As agreed in our discussion on June 8, there will be no contractor study effort on possible Gemini circumlunar flight missions. Any circumlunar mission studies relating to the use of Gemini will be confined to in-house study efforts.

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.

Robert C. Seamans, Jr.

PT  
WAF:am  
6/12/64



*circumlunar flight*

*gillespie  
Aero-Astro  
filed  
10/1/65  
1/Ref: Apollo*

September 10, 1965

Honorable Olin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NAAM (vs. flight)  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With reference to your request for my views on the possibility of a circumlunar flight, using a Gemini system, prior to the Apollo lunar landing, you will note that the enclosed statement, which was submitted to the Senate Committee on Aeronautical and Space Sciences on August 23, indicates that in the process of accomplishing the lunar exploration mission with Apollo, our program will give us experienced crews, operating know-how, and the ground and space equipment to undertake quite a number of other scientific and technological developments. The point is also made that our on-going and approved missions will require, for the next several years, the peak performance of the scientific, engineering, industrial and facilities complex that we have been expanding since 1961.

As indicated to the Senate Committee, we are not ready to recommend major new projects on the order of Gemini or Apollo. Our main objective now is to see that our basic current responsibilities are met effectively. I also believe that the Apollo system now being developed can meet our requirements for knowledge and capability better than the adoption of other courses of action.

The insertion in our program of a circumlunar flight, using the Gemini system, would require major technical, cost, and operational efforts with too thin a margin of success. Therefore, if additional funds were available, I believe it would be in the national interest to use these in the Apollo program.

As you will remember, I testified in 1964 that the USSR would most likely have the capability and technology to accomplish ahead of us each major milestone in space up to the lunar landing and exploration with manned vehicles. We have clearly stated over the past

CONCURRENCES: few years that they will do a lunar flight with man before we can accomplish this with the Apollo system. However, there is certainly

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Sincerely yours,

Original Signed By  
James E. Webb

James E. Webb  
Administrator

- cc:  
 AD/Dr. Dryden  
 AA/Dr. Seamans  
 AC/Mr. Callaghan  
 AO/Col. Vogel

CONCURRENCES: A/Webb/erc/9-10-65

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Honorable Olin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NASA Oversight  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With regard to your letter of August 1, 1965, Gemini circumlunar flight has been considered and evaluated.

It appears technically feasible to upgrade the Gemini system to perform the circumlunar flight. However, this it would certainly require a substantial advantage over the Apollo flights.

We are proceeding in an orderly manner moon but developing a strong, balanced in my testimony before the Senate Armed on August 23rd, the planned lunar orbiter and Surveyor is assigned for the manned Apollo lunar landing. We do not intend to divert our efforts from this goal to the more limited circumlunar objective.

In the event that additional funds were available to the agency we would feel that it would be most beneficial to apply these funds to the mainstream Apollo effort to bolster our ability to meet our present commitments, rather than initiating a competitive effort.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and hope that we have answered your questions satisfactorily.

1965, Gemini circumlunar flight

to the Gemini system to perform the circumlunar flight. The purpose of this effort is such that it would show an appreciable time

advantage not only landing on the moon but developing a strong, balanced capability in space. As I stated in my testimony before the Senate Armed and Space Science Committee on August 23rd, the planned lunar orbiter and Surveyor is assigned to provide the required information for the manned Apollo lunar landing. We do not think it would be wise to initiate a separate program to achieve the more limited circumlunar objective.

In the event that additional funds were available to the agency we would feel that it would be most beneficial to apply these funds to the mainstream Apollo effort to bolster our ability to meet our present commitments, rather than initiating a competitive effort.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and hope that we have answered your questions satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

Rewritten: CSB:rqr:9/8/65

A-5619

CONCURRENCES:

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Honorable Clin E. Beag  
Chairman, Subcommittee on M.S. Oversight  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D. C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

With regard to your letter of August 13, 1965, Gemini circumlunar flight has been considered and evaluated.

It appears technically possible to upgrade the Gemini system to perform the circumlunar flight. However, the timing of this effort in such a manner would certainly require a crash effort to show an appreciable time advantage over the Apollo flight.

We are proceeding in an orderly manner towards not only landing on the Moon but developing capability in space. As I testified before the Senate Aeronautical and Space Science Committee on August 23, the plan includes the unmanned Lunar Orbiter designed to provide the required information for the Apollo/Lunar landing. It is not wise to divert our efforts to take a separate and highly limited circumlunar objective.

*Donner HD*  
*Engelstein*  
9/3/65

CONCURRENCE:

*Richard L. Callaghan*  
Richard L. Callaghan  
AC

*Robert C. Seamans, Jr.*  
Robert C. Seamans, Jr.  
AA

In the event that additional funds were made available to the agency we feel that it would be most beneficial to apply these funds to the maximum Apollo effort to bolster our ability to meet our present commitments, rather than initiating a completely new effort.

We appreciate your interest in this effort and hope that we have answered your questions satisfactorily.

Sincerely yours,

James B. Wolfe  
Administrator

01:40

A-5619

→ MCL/Carol

Cross file

See List Below

SEP 30 1965

MC/Capt. Freitag

Circumlunar Gemini Flights

I am forwarding the attached correspondence to you at Mr. Webb's request. It is for the information and use of you and your staff as a guide as this indicates NASA's position on possible circumlunar Gemini flights.

Original signed by  
Robert F. Freitag

Robert F. Freitag  
Director  
MSF Field Center Development

Enclosure:

Copy of ltr from Congressman  
Teague to Mr. Webb dtd 8/18/65  
and copy of ltr from Mr. Webb  
to Congressman Teague dtd 9/10/65

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**COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE AND ASTRONAUTICS**  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
 SUITE 2317-2325 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, D.C.

August 18, 1965

Mr. James E. Webb  
 Administrator  
 National Aeronautics and  
 Space Administration  
 Washington, D. C.

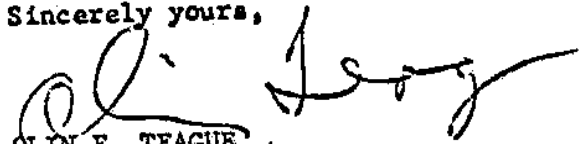
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Your comment will be of assistance to the continuing review  
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Sincerely yours,



OLIN E. TEAGUE  
 Chairman  
 Subcommittee on  
 NASA Oversight



NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20546

September 10, 1965

OFFICE OF THE ADMINISTRATOR

Honorable Olin E. Teague  
Chairman, Subcommittee on NASA Oversight  
Committee on Science and Astronautics  
House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Mr. Chairman:

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at lunar distances and developing a thorough-going capability that can achieve preeminence in space, and hold it, is the large Saturn V/Apollo system. The fact that this has been under contract for several years; that full duration test runs have been made on each stage of the Saturn V booster; that we now have an eight-day Gemini flight behind us and will shortly have information from a 14-day flight; and the fact that the Apollo ground test equipment has largely been fabricated and the flight line equipment will shortly be constructed and delivered means that we have a growing competence that we and the world can see is considerably beyond anything the Russians have shown us, including Proton One. Therefore, I do not believe a decision not to make the substantial investment that would be required by a modified Gemini lunar fly-by will change the posture which our program has had for a number of years.

Sincerely yours,

Original signed by  
James E. Webb  
James E. Webb  
Administrator