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8	NATIONAL AERCNAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
9	ANNIVERSARY OF APOLLO 11 MOON LANDING
10	PRESS CONFERENCE
11	JULY 20, 1979
12	! ! !
13	Participants:
14	Neil A. Armstrong
15	Dr. Edwin E. Aldrin, Jr.
16	Michael Collins
17	Robert E. Newman, Director of NASA Public Affairs
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MR. NEWMAN: We turn now to Neil Armstrong.

MR. ARMSTRONG: We mark today the 10th anniversary of America's reaching its goal of landing on the moon. The interim ten years have been interesting ones in space, marked first by the spectacular successes of the Apollo landings of 12, 14, 15, 16 and 17. The middle of the decade marked by further manned flight and Skylab and the first joint venture with the Russians, Apollo Soyuz. And the latter -- really all the decade, marked by remarkable achievements in exploration of our nearby planets, most recently of course, by the Jupiter encounter, which brought us the spectacular picture of Jupiter's moons.

UNIDENTIFIED PERSON: We can't hear you.

MR. ARMSTRONG: O.K. I'll try. So, in retrospect,

I think it's a decade in which we can be very proud. A great
deal was accomplished. Certainly not everything was accomplished that we might liked to have seen. A lot of things,
a lot of projects that were gleams in the eyes of some enthusiasts, did not occur and will have to wait for the next
decade. But we can hope that the next decade will be marked
by equal or even more striking progress, with the first flights
of the shuttle which we look forward to with great anticipation.
And as I previously said, I hope that leads to a number of
other projects including particularly, a permanent space
station. I'll turn it over to -- who's next?

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MR. ALDRIN: Good morning. I'd like you to know
that this is not my favorite pastime. And I get kind of ner-
vous and uptight at affairs like this. But that's O.K. be-
cause it's not going to last forever. In the past several
years, I've really felt sorry for a few individuals. One
of them happens to be the people in the Post Office in Los
Angeles. They keep sending things to the wrong address and
they have to forward them, so if you gentlemen might do me
a couple of favors, one of them would be to sort of let people
know that, if they don't have an address of Chinault
Street/in Los Angeles, it's the wrong one. For over seven years
now, I've been getting fan mail forwarded from the test pilot
school and I really feel sorry for that Post Office up there.
I've decided that I will not participate in any more signing
of first day covers or any philatelic
material. I think ten years is enough for participation in
any items that might be commercialized. I'm very happy that
my three children have finally made it here for, not this
function, but for some of the other festivities here in Wash-
ington. And I also decided that this was the place for my
first wife to come. We get along quite well now in items and
matters pertaining to our three children and I think that
whatever bitterness may have existed has faded, and there's
forgiveness and whatever. And I feel that there needs to be
a bit more of that in the world these days. And as an example

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1 of how we get along, I chose to ask her to come along because this event really commemorates part of my life and part of her 2 life ten years ago. Apollo 11 may have been a small step for 3 Neil but it was a beginning of a tremendous hurdle for me. 4 And that hurdle eventually led to the disease of alcoholism. 5 And I'd like you to know that I am certainly a changed person 6 now, not the same individual that participated in that flight that was rather uptight and anxious in the post-flight activities. Most of the time, I feel quite comfortable and at peace 9 with the world and with myself. There are a few exceptions, 10 like this morning. But I find myself able to cope with many 11 things that used to baffle me. And when I sort of add up 12 where I am right now, it doesn't make much sense because there are a lot of things that might be more favorable in my 1.1 life today, from a professional career, domestic standpoint, 15 but nonetheless, I do have a sense of comfort that far surpasses anything I've had before. I haven't been all that 17 pleased with the way people have handled interviews that I've 18 decided to grant a few people in hopes that some of my trials 19 and tribulations, and where I am today, and what I think 20 about, could be expressed properly. In particular, there was 21 an interview I participated in, that I felt did the story very 22 well, but editorialized and put into the context whatever was 23 felt necessary in terms of portraying us as ill-adjusted or 24 whatever. It didn't come across too well. So I thought I 25

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would like to take this opportunity to read what was written
beforehand and I hope it won't stretch us out or eliminate
too much time for questions. That'll make these guys very
unhappy, I know. Of most importance to Edwin E. 'Buzz' Aldrin
today are people, coming to know them, including himself. The
toughest challenge of his life came after Apollo 11 in estab-
lishing a pattern outside the rigid discipline of West Point,
the U.S. Air Force, M.I.T., then being a N.A.S.A. astronaut,
all of which constituted the majority of his life until the
age of 39. Following his return to earth, which is the title
of his autobiography, published in 1973, a year and a half of
public speeches and appearances as one of the first men on
the moon, Aldrin found that wearing and shedding the skin of
heroism is no easy task. He tells in his book of a forty day
leave after graduating from West Point at the age of twenty-
one, when he took a trip to Europe and came face to face with
the world. For someone who had always lived in groups and
who had marched to definite orders, the sensation of casually
wandering around Europe was strange indeed. And so did he find
life after Apollo. In seeking a new road, he fell into a
state of depression and eventually underwent treatment in an
Air Force Hospital in Texas. Disguised in the depression was
the creeping disease of alcoholism, which surfaced three and
a half years later and was a struggle he describes as the most
overriding event in his life. The space program was kinder-

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garten in comparison to coping with the culminating effects.
of alcoholism. You get into a pattern of just gradually
spiralling down. As he speaks in an authoritative voice abou
the scientific technicalities of the space program, in a
serious tone of admiration, he hails the advancement in the
treatment of alcoholism in recent years. Colonel Aldrin was
one of the most prominent citizens who gathered in Washington
D.C. in 1976 to announce themselves as recovering alcoholics
to the National Council on Alcoholism. The acclaimed meeting
was a steppingstone toward eliminating a long time stigma,
and since then, many public figures have publicly acknowledged
their need for help. Today, at age forty-nine, upward is
again Buzz Aldrin's direction. He's treading with a much
broader outlook toward helping all those who may have encoun-
tered problems similar to his. For example, he plans to act
as a consultant to major corporations with advisory programs
for pilots and executive personnel who may suffer from the
disease of alcoholism. And he's not severed the cord with
N.A.S.A. entirely. A year ago, with a TRW group, he studied
the projected training of crews for United States Air Force
Space Shuttle missions. And more recently worked with a
group from the Jet Propulsion Lab in Pasadena on the early
stages of an unmanned Mars sample return mission. Today, he
is the key in the preparation of a summer program at Griffith

Park Planetarium, Los Angeles, Which recounts the lunar
mission. Dr. Aldrin cheers the current Jupiter explorations
and considers the prospect of solar energy as an economically
competitive source in the future. But he observes, referring
to national business and political affairs, a lack of unity
in the American people, which awoke ten years ago at the hand
of Apollo ll. People are too much in dissension about what
is right and wrong. It would be nice if we could harness
together meaningful effort that would unify thought and
feeling. What seems to unify people today is what's wrong
with what's going on, instead of taking a positive action.
Among those people, Buzz Aldrin is getting to know better,
are his children, of whom he speaks with great pride. Michae
is twenty-three, working for Western Airlines and attending
college in Hawaii. Janice, twenty-two, is an opera major
at California University. And Andy, twenty-one, is studying
pre-law, while employed by a company that customizes vans.
Edwin E. Aldrin has made the switch from being a public figur
to being a private man and has balanced his library. I now
have the potential to be a far more satisfied individual and
appreciate the little things in life. Now I wish you could
have read something like that in the magazines instead of
, ,
some of the things you have read. Thank you.

MR. COLLINS: This occasion reminds me of the story about the journalist, who was doing a profile on Cary Grant.

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And when he got all through writing it, he discovered he didn't know how old Cary Grant was. His age wasn't listed anywhere and he checked around and found that that was true, that no one really knew how old Cary Grant was. So he took a frontal attack approach and fired off a telegram to Cary Grant's press agent, saying how old Cary Grant? And right away, he got the answer back, old Cary Grant fine. the way I feel. Old Mike Collins is fine. I'm sorry to hear from the space doctors that I'm so hard of hearing I couldn't get into the astronaut business if I were applying today, and I need glasses to read my newspaper, but despite that, I'm very optimistic, as you will see from, if you read the remarks that I think are in your press kit. And while I didn't put a title on those, they should be called earth, love it and leave it, and I'll be around later taking orders for bumper stickers, saying that. Thank you.

MR. NEWMAN: O.K. As I recognize you, would you please state your name and your affiliation, please? Yes, sir.

MR. : (Inaudible). United States Space

Education Association. I have a question for all three of
you gentlemen. If you had known ten years ago, what effect
the flight of Apollo 11 would have on your lives, would you
have rather flown that flight or a later one?

MR. NEWMAN: Yes. The question was, looking back

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now ten years, if you had it all to do over again, would you have preferred to fly on Apollo 11 or on a later flight?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, I guess to lead off, I'd say, at the time, I was certainly willing to accept all the risks that might be inherent in such an assignment and I certainly couldn't regret then, having, living after the flight. One of the difficult—not the fact. I was delighted to be on the flight. It was worth a great deal to me personally and I was very privileged to be a part of that, irrespective of the consequences.

MR. ALDRIN: It's a difficult question to answer because it presupposes information that we have today and reflecting back to the past and then making a decision. I feel that everything I decided to do was rather consistent with what my life was up to that point. I had an inkling of what might come afterward in terms of putting me in positions where I wasn't all that comfortable, but at that time, the treadmill was moving and it was really impossible to get off and re-board in a sense. So that was a momentary thought, perhaps, of preferring to be on maybe a second, third, or whatever landing mission. As difficult, perhaps, life has been at times for me, I feel that I wouldn't be where I am today if it were not for coming to grips with everything that was presented to me and walking through those and making necessary changes in my life and growing as a result of that.

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And if it took Apollo 11 and the aftermath to put me where I am today, then I'm very happy with that.

MR. COLLINS: I was on the crew of Apollo 8 and then got bumped off because of a medical problem. Those two flights, 8 and 11 remain my favorite flights. I'd be happy to have either one of them. Those are the two best ones, I think.

> MR. NEWMAN: Jules Bergman.

MR. BERGMAN: (Inaudible)

MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, the headlines always come out, disappointed, in capital letters, and that's really not an accurate reflection of my own opinion as I've expressed it over the years. Of course, those of us who were enthusiasts, would like to see more being done, and there haven't been resources available to do all the projects that those of us who are enthusiasts, would like to see happening. But, as I stated earlier, looking back, it's been a good decade. of things have been done, not so many as some of us might have liked, but certainly a lot. I do hope that, as we progress through the next decade, we'll have the public will, that the public themselves will decide that this is a good investment in humanity's future and that we will take some new, big, initiatives. And, as I said before, I think that the first one might very well be a permanent orbiting station.

> MR. NEWMAN: Anybody else?

MR. ALDRIN: I feel like you fell into a trap, Jules.

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I've always wondered why it is that, because we're crew mem-
bers of a particular mission that we all of the sudden become
experts in trying to figure out what the future ought to be
and make judgments that then maybe get interpreted as what
we really ought to do and I'm speaking just for myself
right now. But I ran across something the other day that I
thought made the point that I'm trying to make, that I feel
a little uncomfortable in trying to take the role of judging
where we are and what we're doing. This is a little article
that was printed in the Test Pilot's Quarterly, taken from
the Illustrated World, May, 1914, entitled 'Folly to Cross
Atlantic in Air,' written by Orville Wright, aviator. And
I'll read it rather quickly, parts of it. 'It's a fair
possibility that a one-man machine without a float and favored
by a wind of, say, fifteen miles an hour, might succeed in
setting across the Atlantic. But such an attempt would be
the heighth of folly. When one comes to increase the size of
the craft, the possibility rapidly fades away. This is because
of the difficulties of carrying sufficient fuel.' And he goes
on to say that, on the basis of his calculations, fifty-three
per cent would have to be fuel. I checked with a 747 captain
the other day, and if unloaded everyone, and just went max
range, it was sixty per cent. Of course, there's been some
technological improvements that, I think, Orville was unable
to anticipate. But anyway, it will be readily seen, therefore,

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why the Atlantic flight is out of the question. Now, maybe he, 1 maybe in those days, ten years after he flew, we should have 2 looked to some other people as to what the future was, maybe 3 Billy Mitchell or Charles Lindberg. I feel uncomfortable in 4 trying to be put in a position of saying where we ought to 5 really go, because that's not my business today. 6 7 MR. ROGERS: (₹naudible) Rogers . Ιf Buzz Aldrin and Neil Armstrong and Collins would have to do 8 the flight all over again, would you like to go up again? 9 MR. ARMSTRONG: In a minute. 10 MR. ALDRIN: I think it would take more than a 11 minute to get ready, though. So I'm not sure I would. 12 MR. NEWMAN: The question was, would you advise the 13 youth of today to become an astronaut? 14 MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, as an educator, that is my 15 I do advise youth, and they seek that question business. 16 often, ask that question often, seek answers to that question. 17 Although they probably state it a little bit more lucidly, 18 in that they ask, should they go into the space technology 19 field, without identifying a particular job, although some 20 are attracted to the idea of being crew, of course. And I 21 always advise them to do that which they are most interested 22 in and think they're best qualified to handle. 23 I point out to them that, for those who are interested in crew assignments, that flying is the very smallest part. It's only a few per 25

cent of your efforts go in flying as a crewman. Most of your effort goes into planning, strategy, testing and the same kind of hammer and tongs engineering work that most of the other people, who work for N.A.S.A. and industry in space arenas, are tackling, and that's the kind of thing they need to prepare to do because it will be the area of endeavor irrespective of whether they're in a crew capacity or in some of the many other interesting areas of space technology.

MR. COLLINS: Yeah, I'd just like to add -- I think an astronaut's job on the ground is much more interesting than most people realize. You think about astronauts in flight but the work that they do on the ground as quasi-engineers, quasi-test pilots, fascinating stuff. Talk to someone like John Young, who's I think going on seventeen years as being an astronaut. He has as fresh a point of view today as he did when he started. I think it's fascinating, John.

MR. ALDRIN: No, I guess what I was referring to was that, during the hectic days before a flight, especially a very important flight like Apollo 11, you just have to stay extraordinarily alert mentally. There's so many important bits and pieces of information being funnelled into your ears, you really have to pay attention. You have to be super-alert, sensitive. I don't think you can keep that. I don't think you can keep that I don't think you can keep that pace. I just meant for a short period of time. It seemed to me that I was more receptive to and could

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remember things better than I normally could.

MR. ARMSTRONG: I agree with that.

MR. COLLINS: I think that the shuttle will create a tremendous interest as we, over the next ten years, get a lot of hardware into the sky and have frequent sojourns on a more-or-less regular basis. Whether that will be met with the same degree of enthusiasm as previous space projects, I'm not sure, but I would hope not. I would hope that our use of space reaches a degree of maturity where it's accepted not as spectacular ventures in which everybody is interested but rather a kind of day-to-day, common occurrence that everybody expects and admires. I'll be happy with that. With respect to L-5, I would think that a permanent earth orbiting station by Two Thousand would probably have a greater number of benefits than an L-5 position, although that needs to be studied.

MR. NEWMAN: Yeah, the question was to do with one small step for a man or mankind, and the second -- there were two questions there, as I recall. And was there any particular point in time when you felt maximum peril. Is that correct?

MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, that sounds like a, ten years ago, similar questions. In listening to the tapes, I don't hear the missing a -- I thought I said it, but you can, since that was -- it's technically possible that it was there and not picked up by the box or (inaudible). But if you listen

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to me talk here, you'll notice that I'm not really articulate.
and I drop syllables. And so it would not be surprising to me
if the syllable was dropped. It was intended and, if you like
to put it in parenthesis, that's perfectly all right. Insofar
as the greatest degree of peril, I assume now you're talking
about during flight. We it's a difficult thing to say
because I think if you look historically at where problems
occurred in flight, they frequently occur at places where you
least expect them and seldom at the point which you designate
as the points of maximum exposure. Certainly in that latter
case, we I always felt that the lunar descent was the one
in which the greatest number of unknowns were present and the
greatest the systems were working at maximum capacity and
we had probably the least training to handle unforseen circum
stances. So, going in, we regarded that as an area in which
we wanted to train as hard as we possibly could. Well, I
had very great difficulty getting these guys to come to Cin-
cinnatti. I don't understand that, and they're always welcome
AIDDIN . I can't understand why you don't

want to come to Los Angeles or maybe Las Vegas. I really do think it would be nice if we could get some kind of an annual gathering, not just of us, but of all the astronauts. Unfortunately, many times, if we begin to do that, we end up being kind of harassed to the point where we're sorry we ever thoug of the idea. But I think from a reminiscing standpoint,

gatherings like the Dolittle raiders are something 1 that we ought to try and establish in some fashion. I'd 2 really like to see that come about. 3 MR. COLLINS: Everybody knows that people in 4 Washington don't know what's going on, so I'm very reluctant 5 to invite the two of them here. 6 MR. NEWMAN: The question was, not addressed to 7. Buzz, but to Neil and Mike, have they had any problem since 8 the flight of any nature, and what about on the satisfaction 9 side. 10 MR. ARMSTRONG: No, not really. I think I've been 11 blessed with good circumstances and a university that's been 12 very hospitable and allowed me to operate just like every 13 other faculty member there, and I've enjoyed that very much. 14 I probably wish there was some way to cut down on some of the 15 incoming mail and incoming phone calls, but other than that, 16 I'm very satisfied. 17 MR. ALDRIN I'd like to say that my disease may : . 18 affect a lot of people surrounding the individual but it's not 19 contagious. 20 MR. COLLINS : The only thing I would say is, I 21 think there is a little tinge of sadness to the fact that, at 22 age thirty-eight, I had what will probably be the most fascin-23 ating job I'll ever have in my life. But, you know, that's 24 tough. That's just the way it was and is, and that doesn't 25 NEAL R. GROSS COURT REPORTERS AND TRANSCRIBERS

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bother me.

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MR. ARMSTRONG: Well, Bill, I think you've got me confused. I'm an engineering professor, not a history professor and I'm not -- I know others have been active in evaluating and correcting and challenging statements made by various Presidents but that's not the business that I've been in and I don't think I'll start now.

MR. COLLINS: Well, I thought the rhetoric was a little overblown then and now. I suppose the most historic phone call is probably the first one ever made, I would guess In terms of the enormity of that week, I think when the history books are written a hundred years from now, it may very well be that Apollo 8 was a more meaningful flight than Apollo 11.

I'm just not able to say.

MR. ARMSTRONG: I guess I'd like to say one more time, I've made this point before, but for me-personally, the moment of triumph was the landing. We thought that was the real challenge. That was the difficult thing to do. Aviators conventionally like to make a smooth touch-down on the runway, a good landing. And you never think too much about climbing down the ladder. And I think, to me, it was a matter of triumph for the program and triumph for the three of us personally when we reached the surface, and I think if there was an emotional high point, it was the point at which, after touch-down, Buzz and I shook hands without saying a word, but

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know that that, you know, we'd made it. That's still in my mind. It is the high point and that's -- I guess I'll never change.

MR. ALDRIN: Well, in my case, it comes back every day. And not because I necessarily choose to do that, but because it's impossible for me to avoid because of the conversation with other people where the subject is brought up, or the mail will re-introduce the subject. And so, this day, it's a special occasion because it marks the anniversary of reaching the overall goal, but in another respect, it's like every other day because I'm reminded of it every day.

MR. COLLINS: I'm a bureaucrat these days. I'm afraid it gets washed away in a sea of meetings and memos in my life. And I don't think about it nearly as often as Neil does.

MR. ALDRIN : I guess it's in the subconscious most all of the time like any experience a person goes through that is one that has made a meaningful impact on your life.

Little things that may come up during the day may cause you to say, yeah, hey, I was one of those guys that went up there. But then there are a lot of other things that kind of put you in, taking one step at a time, in your daily activities, but I think it's pretty hard to remove anything like that and say it's not involved in daily activities. It's just a part of you, of what you are and what you've been involved in in the

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1	past, makes up what you are today. And as I think you address
2	each moment of the day, many times the fact that you're an
3	astronaut has absolutely nothing to do with it, but when you
4	meet some people, you know darn well that they know you are,
5	and it depends on your relationship with those people as to
6	whether that really makes any difference at all. And I find
7	that, in many ways, we have a very unique position in terms
8	of image, celebrity status or whatever. We certainly have a
9	place in history, but I can also run on down to the corner
10	drug store, and nobody knows who I am. I celebrated the
11	tenth anniversary of liftoff by driving along a freeway in
12	Los Angeles, and I was in a hurry to get where I was going.
13	And there was a red light flashing in the rear view mirror.
14	And that chap wasn't particularly impressed, whether he didn'
15	hear my name when I mentioned it to him, or what I was doing
16	ten years ago. I still got a ticket.
17	MR. NEWMAN: On that note, we will close. If
18	you will sort of hold your positions, we'd like to take the
. 18	crew over to the Hall of Firsts in front of the command modul

MR. NEWMAN: On that note, we will close. If you will sort of hold your positions, we'd like to take the crew over to the Hall of Firsts in front of the command module Any of you that would like a few pictures over there, no more interviews, a few pictures, we will grant that. So, thank you very much.

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