

Press conference-"Exploring the Outer Solar System" program

December 16, 1969

TO: City Editors, Science Writers

SUBJECT: Press Conference - "A Program for Exploring the Outer Solar System"

Recently the Space Science Board of the National Academy of Sciences requested a distinguished group of investigators to study the physics of the outer solar system and - based on their findings - to recommend a program for exploring the outer solar system in the decade ahead.

This 23-man panel has concluded its study, and presented its recommendations to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. One of the scientists who worked on this project is Dr. W.I. Axford, Professor of Applied Physics at the University of California, San Diego. Dr. Axford has agreed to discuss the group's recommendations to NASA, and to answer questions regarding the prospects for exploration of the outer solar system in the years immediately ahead.

This conference is scheduled for Monday, December 22, 1969 10 a.m. Room 4882 Building 2A-Prime, Muir Campus UCSD

A map showing the location of Building 2A-Prime is attached. A member of the Public Affairs staff will be stationed at the entry of this building to guide you on the morning of the conference.

Among aspects of the program which Dr. Axford may touch upon are:

- 1) Launching of an unmanned spacecraft in 1972 to probe the planet Jupiter. (This spacecraft may become the first man-made object to leave the solar system.)
- 2) Proposals for two "grand tour" missions, the first involving a flight to Jupiter, Saturn and Pluto in 1977, the second a flight to Jupiter, Uranus and Neptune in 1979.
- 3) An explanation of the deep-probe or "kamikaze" missions to Jupiter, and of fly-by and orbiter missions.
- 4) A recommended mission to Halley's Comet.
- 5) Why it is important that the "grand tour" flights be scheduled in the next decade.
- 6) What scientific yield can be expected from the proposed missions. For further information, call Dave Hellyer, 453-2000, Ext. 1382.