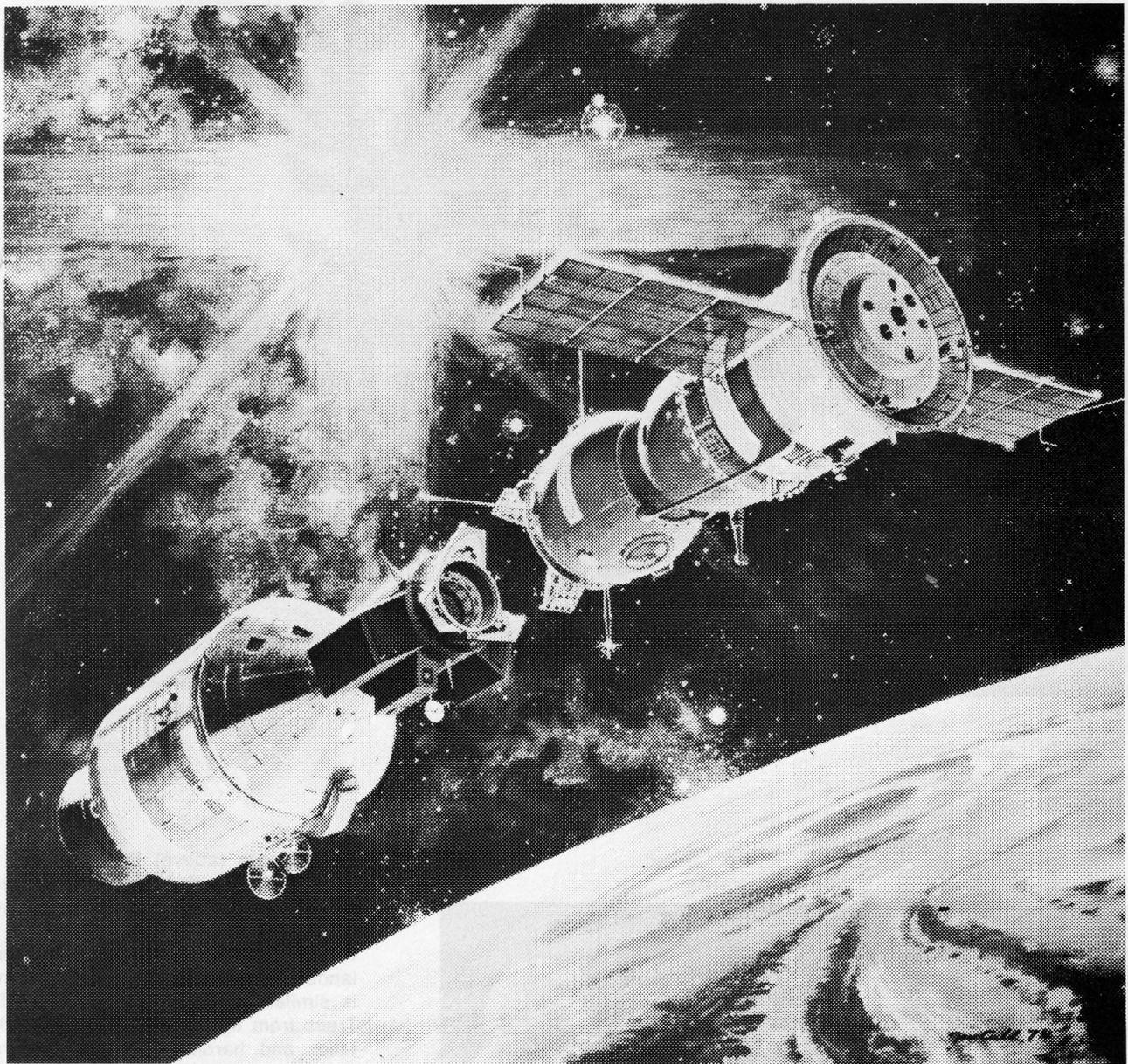


SPACE GIFT -- AN ACRE OF TREES FOR USSR



BN-43918

New products of Forest Service research—a special box and its contents, an acre's worth of superior tree seeds—are being presented to Russian Cosmonauts by U.S. Astronauts during the first international space flight in July 1975.

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Parent trees (above) that produced the genetically superior White spruce seeds for the space gift. The trees were developed by Forest Service scientists at the Institute of Forest Genetics in Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Rhinelander's climate is similar to that of Moscow, U.S.S.R. Trees from the seeds will grow quicker, taller and hardier to supply a timber crop for a growing world. They will also provide oxygen, act as windbreaks, and add beauty to the acre of Russia upon which they will be planted. (left) Apollo crew members Vance Brand, Thomas P. Stafford, and Donald K. Slayton are briefed by Glenn Kovar, Forest Service (second from right) before lift-off about the gift of tree seeds they are presenting to the Russian Cosmonauts during the Apollo-Soyuz mission.



BN-43923

WOOD PRODUCTS ARE OUT OF THIS WORLD...

The special box and special seeds developed by the Forest Service to be given to the Russian Cosmonauts by U.S. Astronauts during the first international space flight are not the only developments in the space age world of wood.

Many of the complex systems that make space travel possible have their roots in the Earth's forests.

Solid rocket propellants, and photographic film used by the astronauts in recording space experiments are made from wood products.

Wood keeps its cool in hot situations. For example, a cover utilizing a wood product, cork, protects the surface of the Apollo command module from heat

during its return flight through the Earth's atmosphere.

Another type of wood, balsa, is used for insulation to keep the Saturn V S-II hydrogen fuel cool. Still another by-product of trees, rosin-core soldering flux, is used to assure proper bonding of the highly specialized connections on the Saturn V's complex electronic system. One of the nose cone components on missiles is a product from the forests.

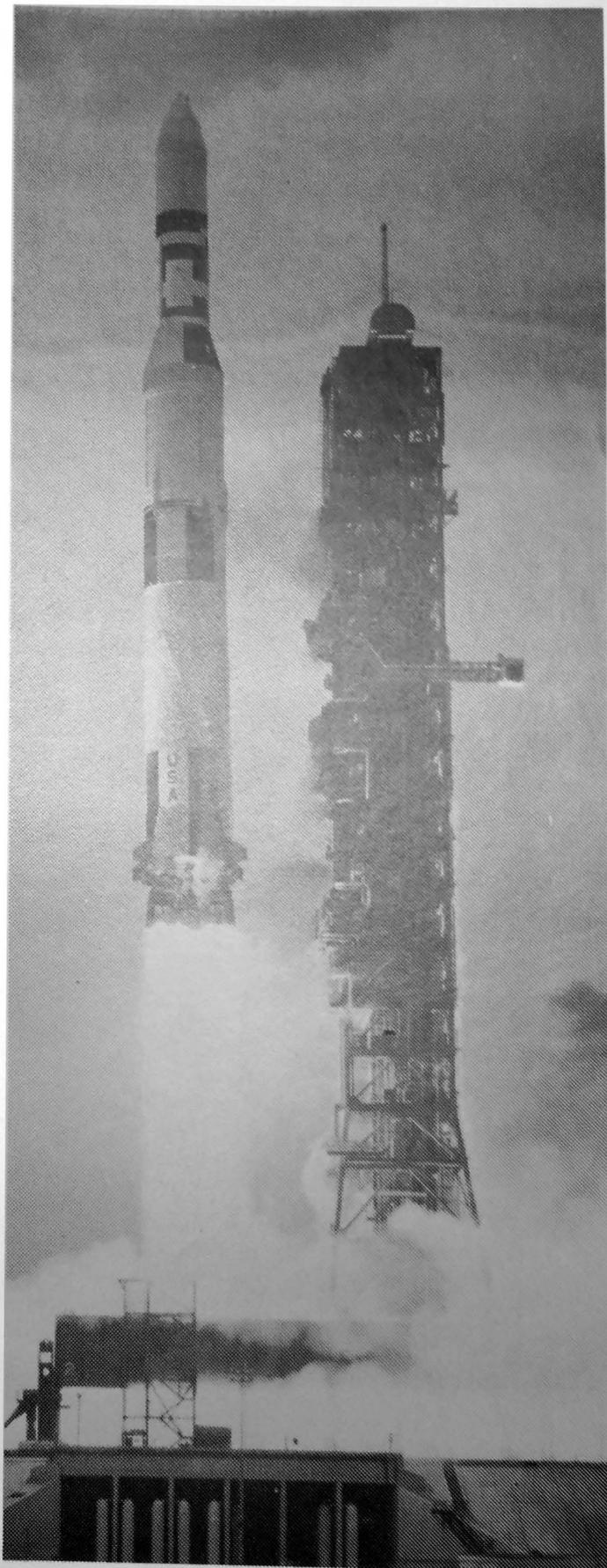
It seems appropriate that the tree—one of the oldest living things on earth—plays a vital role in opening new worlds in space.





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The astronauts and the gift are being carried into space in an Apollo command module atop the Saturn V rocket (right). Mounted on top of the gift box (above) is a White spruce cone casting made from the tree species that produced the seeds. The space gift is White spruce seeds, and more. The box containing the seeds is made up of two products developed by the Forest Products Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin. The top half of the box is made from a product of Forest Service research, chemically stabilized walnut. The treated wood won't shrink, warp, or rot, and is resistant to bugs, diseases, and decay. The bottom half is a composition wood created entirely from recycled fiber. The useful product was made from a heap of waste material (left).



BN-43919



BN-43921



FS-482934

The seed gift is being presented to the Russian Cosmonauts (above) following the signing of the certificate authenticating the docking of the Apollo and Soyuz spacecrafts. It is our forest resources (below) rooted to the soil, that have contributed so much to make our planet habitable and even space exploration possible. It is upon our forest resources that so much of our future depends.



BN-43922

A view of Earth (above) from an Apollo spacecraft. It is hoped that trees grown from the seeds given to the Russians in space will help produce a better environment here on Earth.

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This Apollo-Soyuz exchange of scientific information is another example of cooperation between the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and the Forest Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture.

