

**RIDE STUDY RECOMMENDS MANNED MOON BASE BY YEAR 2000**

A major new assessment recommends that NASA establish a moon base operated by humans as this nation's next manned exploration goal. The study was led by Sally K. Ride, the first U. S. woman in space. Last year she became a special assistant to NASA Administrator James Fletcher. The 10-member panel studied possible long-range goals for NASA, and this new moon base was given in her report to Fletcher on August 3, 1987. On August 17, Fletcher released the report to the public and urged the White House and Congress to act upon the matter very soon.

Ride states that a moon base is only three days' travel time from Earth and should be used as a stepping stone for the more complex and lengthy manned mission to Mars. Ride further comments, "We do not really have a strategy for human exploration in NASA. We have the shuttle and the proposed space station but they are not a strategy for human exploration."

Ride says that her team's findings coincide with an earlier assessment of the National Commission on Space, which advocated a move from low Earth orbit to first explore the moon. "There are a lot of good reasons to go back to the moon," she says. "The U. S. did not finish the job we started during the Apollo project. There is still a lot of lunar exploration, lunar science and research on advanced technologies to be done."

Besides going back to the moon, the task force explored three other major options for NASA beyond assembly of the space station in the mid-1990s: These are (1) A detailed study of Earth sciences with nine orbiting platforms filled with sophisticated instruments, a program dubbed Mission Earth; (2) Exploration of the outer planets with new generations of robot probes; and (3) The first human expedition to Mars during the first decade of the next century. Strongly emphasized was the fact that "NASA cannot set these goals itself. That has to come primarily from the White House and Congress."

RIDE REPORT WILL BOOST APOLLO 11 COVERS...It has only been a few days since the release of the Ride report and we are already getting requests for information on our Apollo covers, and especially the ones for Apollo 11...man's first landing on the Moon. With that in mind we are sending this special bulletin to you that have been with us in the past. We wanted to let you know about this report and especially let you know about some Apollo 11 covers we have never offered before.

**FIVE SCCS APOLLO 11 COVERS NEVER OFFERED BEFORE**

We have five different Apollo 11 covers produced by SCCS that were originally given out in special presentations. We have never had enough stock left to offer them generally but now that we will need a catalog of all SCCS Apollo covers, these covers will have to be listed. Here is the description:

- Cover #1 Astronaut Armstrong places his left foot on the Moon and says, "That's one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." (Time 9:56 p.m.)
- Cover #2 Astronaut Aldrin joins Armstrong on lunar surface. (Time 10:14 p.m.)
- Cover #3 Astronauts read plaque which was left on Moon. (Time 10:24 p.m.)
- Cover #4 President Nixon speaks to the astronauts from Washington. This was the first long distance call to the Moon. (Time 10:48 p.m.)
- Cover #5 As astronauts Armstrong and Aldrin step on the Moon, fellow astronaut Michael Collins orbits the Moon on the ferry spacecraft that would carry all three back to Earth.

These five covers each have their individual cachet picturing the event and the person involved. Each cover is machine cancelled at the main Houston post office at correct time of the event. This set is truly one you will want for your collection.

SPECIAL-SPECIAL PRICE. In an issue of Linn's Stamp News of the past few weeks, a well known space cover dealer has an Apollo Moon Landing cover July 20, 1969 machine cancel priced at \$20.00 We have been listing our July 20, 1969 covers at a very old retail price of \$10 but trying to keep them to newer collectors at about \$7.50. But for you that have been with us in the past, we are really going to make a special price to you. Each of these five covers offered above (July 20, 1969) are only \$4.50 each. The set of five only \$22.50 We will have to keep these in sets of five, though, as that is the way they were offered in the presentation sets. A handy order form for this special price is enclosed and please use that form so that we may honor that price. The covers will be sent out to you immediately.

