

UNITED STATES
MILITARY SPACE AGENCY
SPACE CENTRAL
WASHINGTON D.C., 1835-09471



FROM THE OFFICE OF
THOMAS RAE CHARLES
MISSION CONTROL OFFICER

27 January 2008

Major:

First, our apologies for the sudden change in your mission schedule. We know that you planned on having several more weeks in which to prepare for your trip, but we've had to scrub our original plan. Our latest computer projections indicate that Discovery's orbit is decaying even faster than we had previously thought; unless you take advantage of the current launch window, you'll never reach her before she crashes into Io.

Needless to say, this situation catches us somewhat flat-footed. None of the promised briefing booklets have been completed. We'll send what we can via near-space transmission once you make your launch. For now, though, the attached orders are all we have for you. Please read and destroy.

Best of Luck,

Thomas R. Charles

Thomas Rae Charles
Mission Control Officer
U.S. Space Central

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Mission Statement:

By authority of this document, you are directed to proceed by priority 1 available transport to Star City, USSR. At Star City, the Soviets will provide shuttle transport to the *Leonov*, their mission ship currently in a stationary orbit over Star City. Once aboard the *Leonov*, you will enter hibernation for the duration of the *Leonov's* trip to Jupiter.

Upon reaching Jupiter, the *Leonov* will enter a close orbit of the moon, Io, at which time the crew will revive you. You will then travel in the *Leonov's* pod, the *Misha*, to the *Discovery*. You will board and examine her. Under no circumstances will you permit Soviet personnel to board the *Discovery*. Having completed your examination, you will take all necessary steps to restart the ship and return her safely to Earth.

Your mission control team also consists of Team Leader Dr. Heywood Floyd and Computer Consultant Dr. Sivasubramanian Chandra. Dr. Chandra will board the *Discovery* with you to conduct restoration of the HAL-9000. During operations aboard the *Discovery*, Dr. Floyd will remain onboard the *Leonov* to provide liaison with the Soviets. You are authorized to communicate only with the mission control team or with U.S. Space Central Earthside. Under no circumstances will you communicate with Soviet personnel.

Situation Briefing:

The United States spaceship *Discovery* was dispatched to Jupiter with a five-man crew on board. Crewmembers Charles Hunter, Victor Kaminski and J.R. Kimball were scheduled to make the voyage in hibernation. Crew members David Bowman and Francis Poole remained awake in order to monitor ship functions and conduct routine maintenance. Actual ship operation was handled by the HAL-9000 on-board computer.

As a result of a still unexplained breakdown of the HAL-9000 computer, crewmembers Hunter, Kaminski, Kimball and Poole died during transit to Jupiter. Bowman is known to have reached Jupiter alive after disconnecting the HAL-9000, but subsequently abandoned ship. We have no further information concerning his fate, and USMSA files list crewmember Bowman as "missing-presumed dead."

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The *Discovery* is currently in a decaying orbit around the moon, Io. This increased orbital decay is caused, in part, by sulphur storms and volcanic activity on Io. Unless you can get the ship spaceworthy and out of Io orbit, it will crash into Io's surface within a short time of your anticipated arrival. If this happens, not only the ship itself, but a substantial quantity of valuable data gathered by the *Discovery*, would be lost. You must do everything possible to prevent the loss of the *Discovery*.

Considerations:

1. The condition of *Discovery* is unknown. Commander Bowman is believed to have sealed the ship before he left, but this belief rests on speculation. Even if the ship is sealed, damage from micrometeors during *Discovery's* 10-year orbit may have been significant, possibly sufficient to rupture the ship's hull. In addition, increasingly close exposure to Io's continuous sulphur storms during recent years may have resulted in considerable damage to the ship's antenna, sensors, and circuitry.
2. The current condition of the HAL-9000 on-board computer is unclear. If HAL can be reactivated, his assistance could be invaluable in getting the ship repaired in time to avoid impact on Io. However, the exact means by which Commander Bowman deactivated the computer are not known. Further, since the cause of HAL's breakdown during the previous voyage is not known, reactivation may be a gamble at best. As the man on the spot, you will have to make the decision.
3. The legal status of *Discovery* is somewhat ambiguous. It is the position of the United States government that the ship is in fact, temporarily decommissioned and in a parking orbit. Others, notably the Soviets, have in the past maintained that the ship was abandoned by its crew and thus a derelict subject to salvage. Since the Soviets are unfamiliar with U.S. controls and operating systems, they have agreed to cooperate in a joint mission to rescue *Discovery*. Soviet communications have carefully skirted the issue as to whether your mission is to recommission...or salvage...the abandoned vessel.

Major, this is all we've got for you at this time. More information will follow in near-space transmissions. Good luck.

End briefing. Destroy after reading.

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