

WEATHER

Forecast for Tucson: generally fair, little change
Temperatures
Yesterday: HIGH 74 LOW 36
Year Ago: HIGH 55 LOW 39
U.S. WEATHER BUREAU

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FINAL

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THIRTY PAGES

Apollo Training Craft Explodes



VIRGIL I. GRISSOM
... Veteran command pilot



EDWARD H. WHITE II
... Spacewalk hero



ROGER B. CHAFFEE
... Rookie astronaut

ASTRONAUTS DIE IN FIERY CAPSULE

U.S. Signs Outer Space N-Treaty

'Inspiring Moment'
Hailed By Johnson

By MAX FRANKEL
(C) 1967 N. Y. Times News Service
WASHINGTON — President Johnson presided yesterday over a White House ceremony at which the United States, the Soviet Union and 60 other countries signed a treaty to limit military activities in outer space.

Johnson hailed it as an "inspiring moment in the history of the human race" and described the treaty as a "first firm step toward keeping outer space free forever from the implements of war."

Similar ceremonies were held earlier yesterday in Moscow and London. But the treaty will not take effect until it is ratified by the U.S., the Soviet Union, Britain and two other governments. For most nations, that is a mere formality, but in the U.S. the Senate must give its consent by a two-thirds vote.

Eventual ratification is expected, because the treaty does not prohibit any present or planned American military activities in space. It prohibits the placing of nuclear weapons or other weapons of mass destruction in orbit, on the moon or on other celestial bodies. It also bars all military installations and maneuvers from the moon and other planets.

It does not, however, prohibit the orbiting of military spacecraft carrying no large weapons or the use of unmanned satellites for military purposes, such as reconnaissance.

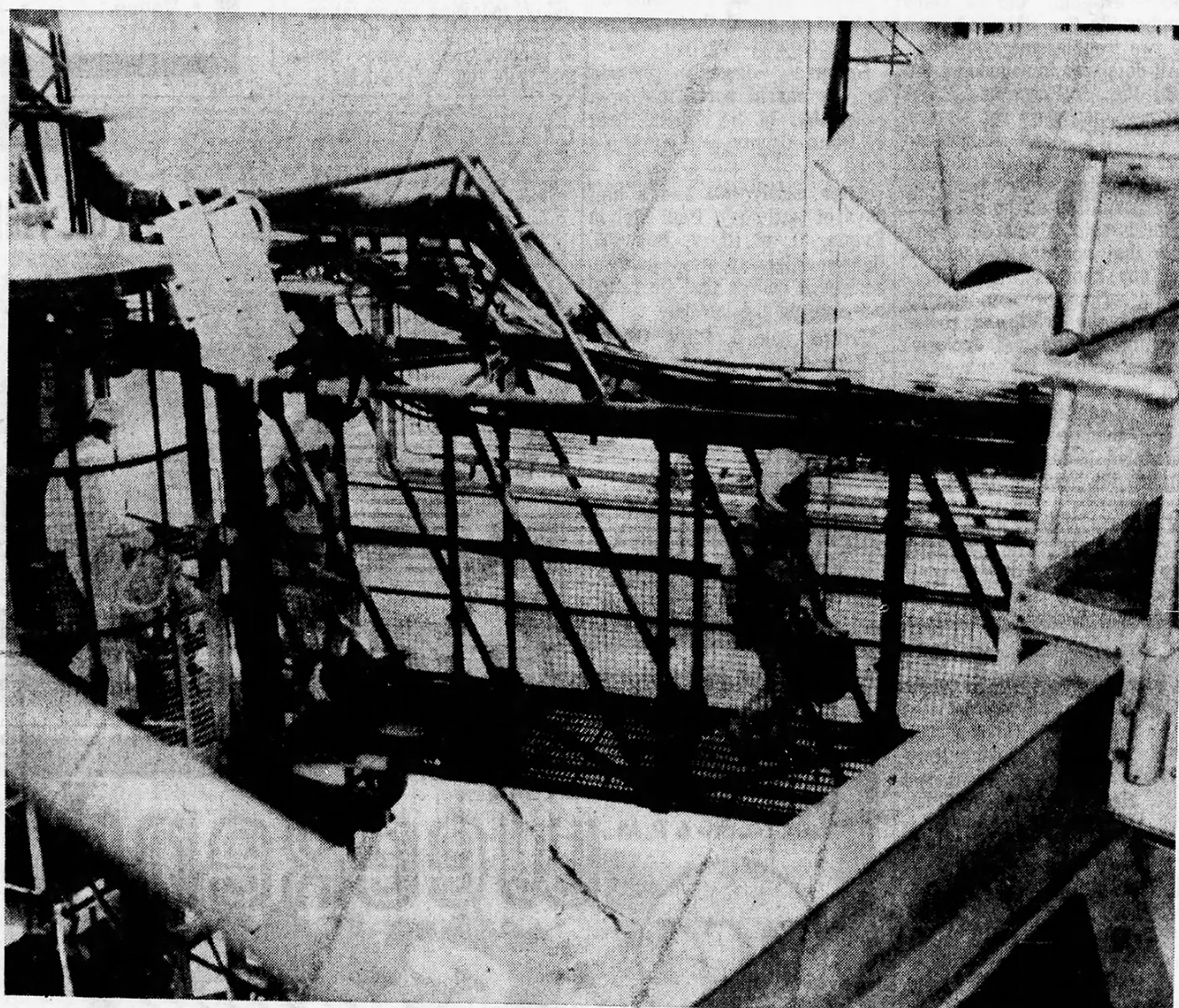
Some opposition here may focus on the difficulties of inspecting Soviet satellites for the presence of nuclear weapons. But American officials expressed confidence that the treaty posed no threat to national security. They predicted that the Joint Chiefs of Staff would testify to their ability to detect the orbiting of any sizable "system" of weapons by another nation.

Even the other, less controversial elements of the treaty are looked upon as important contributions to international law.

Extending the principles of earth law to outer space, the agreement forbids claims of sovereignty and national appropriation on the moon and other planets, guarantees open access to all installations, equipment and space vehicles on celestial bodies, requires the prompt and safe return of astronauts who land outside their native territories, proclaims national property rights over space vehicles, requires their return to the owner from any place on earth and holds the owner liable for damage caused by them.

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Last Time Up The Gantry

Astronauts Virgil I. (Gus) Grissom (right) and Roger Chaffee are shown yesterday as they entered the Apollo 1 spacecraft where they met their fiery death. They and Astronaut Edward H. White II were killed several hours later in a flash fire. NASA officials had photographs last night of the burning capsule but would not release them. (AP Wirephoto)

3 Spacemen Trained In Arizona

The three Apollo astronauts killed last night had trained at several scientific installations in Arizona.

Beginning with the Gemini program, astronauts had spent many hours at Kitt Peak, the observatory southwest of Tucson on the Papago Reservation, at Lowell Observatory in Flagstaff and at the Grand Canyon.

Sites in northern Arizona were selected for features closely resembling the moon, including volcanic regions, lava flows, meteor craters and geological phenomena like the Grand Canyon.

They spent many hours at Kitt Peak Solar Laboratory, which was arranged to provide group observations of the moon for the astronauts.

Virgil Grissom did not make the early trips. Edward White toured the Kitt Peak area in 1964. Roger Chaffee visited Arizona in 1965, shortly after he was chosen to be one of the Apollo astronauts.

Three-Man Crew Killed Instantly

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla., (AP) —The three Apollo 1 Astronauts were killed last night by a flash fire that trapped them aboard the huge spacecraft designed to take a man to the moon by 1970.

Locked behind sealed hatches and killed instantly just 218 feet above the ground were:

Air Force Col. Virgil (Gus) Grissom, a space pioneer and the first man to soar twice into the heavens; Air Force Col. Edward H. White II, first American to walk in space, and Navy Lt. Cmdr. Roger B. Chaffee, a rookie eagerly awaiting his first flight.

The three were hooked into a pure oxygen breathing system in their spacesuits and the oxygen fed the fire. Valiant pad workers trying to rescue the trapped men fell back one by one as they fought through dense, acid smoke toward the capsule.

Although the tragedy postponed indefinitely the Apollo's scheduled Feb. 21 blast off, space officials and President Johnson vowed to press ahead with the moon program despite the deaths.

"Three valiant young men have given their lives in the nation's service," Johnson said. "We mourn this great loss and our hearts go out to their families."

James E. Webb, administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, promised to pursue the program with renewed dedication.

"We in NASA know that their greatest desire was that this nation press forward with manned space flight exploration, despite the outcome of any one flight," Webb said. "With renewed dedication and purpose we intend to do just that."

The astronauts were the first to be killed in space hardware. Ironically they were killed while the spacecraft was still on the launch pad.

Three other astronauts died in airplane crashes. In the line of duty, but yesterday's tragedy involved the first "on premises" deaths in America's space program.

NASA official Gordon Harris said the fire broke out at 6:31 P.M. (EST) while the astronauts were involved in a full-scale simulation of the launch that was to take them into the heavens for 14 days of orbiting next month.

The astronauts' bodies were left in the tiny compartment for more than four hours while Space Agency and Air Force investigators probed the cockpit for clues as to what might have set off the fire.

Harris said the astronauts were wearing their spacesuits at the time of the fire and were on a "pure oxygen system." The bodies were taken to a dispensary at the Cape about 1½ miles from the launch site.

Eyewitnesses reported they could see fire around the spacecraft above the unfueled rocket. Harris said the witnesses reported there was "just a flash."

Paul Haney, voice of the astronauts, said monitors received no word from the astronauts during the fire. He said they could not have used an emergency escape system because a protective gantry was wrapped around the entire craft during the launch test.

Twenty-seven launch pad crewmen tried to reach the astronauts but were overcome by smoke although they were wearing gas masks, Harris said. He said two were hospitalized in good condition and the others were released.

The fire was reported during a "plugs out" test of the huge booster rocket and spacecraft. Both were operating on their own power systems and not power from the ground.

(Continued on 2A, Col. 5)

Tragedy Will Hurt Program

By EVERT CLARK

(C) 1967 N. Y. Times News Service

WASHINGTON — Last night's tragic accident at Cape Kennedy is expected to deal a serious blow to the Apollo program, which has struggled hard to stay on schedule in the face of annual budget cuts.

Space officials have warned for several years that their margin of operation was thin, that continual economies imposed by the administration and Congress left no room for failures if the moon was to be reached by 1970.

Since they first raised this cry, the mishaps have gradually accumulated.

Although it will be some time before the full impact of last night's accident can be assessed, it means more than the loss of a carefully selected, highly competent crew.

It probably means the loss of a spacecraft and possibly parts of the launching rocket. It also may mean damage to the launching pad that could delay a flight using the backup crew. A backup crew flew the Gemini 9 after the original Gemini 9 pilots were killed in a plane crash.

Last March, President Johnson reaffirmed the goal laid down by President Kennedy when he announced the Apollo program in May 1961. The United States, Johnson said, still intended "to land the first man on the surface of the moon" by 1970.

Johnson's words at the time were interpreted as an answer — and a bit of a reprimand — to National Aeronautics and Space Administration officials, who had just been complaining to Congress about budget cuts made within the administration.

Following the ceremony at which Johnson made his remarks, James E. Webb, NASA administrator, said he believed an American could be put on the moon late in 1969.

Space-Age Irony: Accidents Claim 6 U.S. Astronauts

(C) 1967 N. Y. Times News Service
WASHINGTON — The irony of the deaths of the three Apollo astronauts is that 36 men have flown in space for the United States and the Soviet Union and returned safely to earth.

Yet this country has now lost six of its astronauts in aircraft or ground accidents.

Since the space age began nine years ago, there have been rumors that Russian astronauts had died in space or in launching pad accidents.

But American officials have always denied knowing of any such accidents.

In the 10 manned Gemini flights alone, the U.S. accumulated almost 1,900 man-hours of safe space flight time with no deaths or injuries and only one close call.

Erhard Birthday

BONN, West Germany (AP) — Former Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, who will be 70 Feb. 4, has asked for birthday contributions to a foundation he established for freedom in politics, economics and science.

24-Inch Snowfall Cripples Chicago

By THE ASSOCIATED PRESS
Girl, 10, Killed
In Gun Battle

Looters took to the snow-filled streets of Chicago yesterday, smashing store windows and breaking into stalled vehicles in the aftermath of a record snowstorm that crippled the city.

The storm plowed eastward toward Ontario last night, wiping out communications and transportation in Michigan, Indiana and Ohio as it charged through.

A 10-year-old girl, Delores Miller, was shot to death on Chicago's West Side as police and looters exchanged gunfire during the looting of a store. Semi-trailers were hijacked, thousands of dollars worth of television sets were filched from a stalled semitrailer and dozens of persons were arrested.

Giant snowdrifts and stalled vehicles blocked streets everywhere. Some 600 of the 800 men in the police task force surged into the West Side area on foot to deal with the looters. Reports of looting came in at the rate of one every two minutes at nightfall.

There were at least 25 arrests for looting.

Isolated reports of looting also came in from the South and

North sides. But most of the reports issued from an area in the heart of the Negro neighborhood where rioters burned and looted stores for three days this summer before a callup of the National Guard brought things back to normal.

The city's expressway system was closed to traffic, as was the scenic lakefront Outer Drive. That left the city without its major roads — and every side street in town was impassable, clogged with five-foot snowdrifts and bogged with abandoned autos. Few secondary routes were open.

At least 26 deaths, many of them due to heart attacks brought on by snow shoveling or car pushing, were attributed to the storm in Illinois.

The storm dumped a record (Continued on 4A, Col. 6)

Tornado Strikes Delaware

FELTON, Del. (AP) — A tornado struck this farming community of 1,000 Friday, slightly injuring seven persons, destroying a service station and damaging more than a dozen homes.

One house was lifted from its foundation and moved 15 feet.

The twister struck just across U.S. 13 from the 12-grade Felton Public School, but none of the 1,150 pupils inside was hurt. The only damage to the building was one window blown out.

"I saw the thing coming," Jay F. Biggs, son of the owner of the demolished gasoline station, said at the hospital.

"I pushed my father behind me and then it hit us."

Clark Brittingham, another Felton resident taken to the hospital, said: "All I heard was a whistle, and that's all I remember." Brittingham was in bed when the tornado struck.

The tornado demolished one gasoline station, damaged another and seriously damaged six of the 14 homes hit. A house behind the destroyed service station was lifted from its foundation, moved 15 feet and set back down, one eyewitness said.

House OKs Purchasing Measure

By AL BRADSHAW
Star Staff Correspondent

PHOENIX — A bill to create a centralized state purchasing agency was passed yesterday and sent to the Senate by the Arizona House, although five of Pima County's six Democrats voted against the measure.

Pima representatives spent much time Thursday night and yesterday morning answering telephone calls from Tucsonans who oppose an amendment to the bill that would place state universities and the highway department under the purchasing agent.

Originally, the schools and highway department were excluded from central buying jurisdiction and would have been allowed to continue their own purchasing of supplies. An amendment from the House Rules Committee, however, does not exclude the schools.

Therefore, many Pimans are worried that much University of Arizona buying in Tucson will in the future be done in Phoenix by the state purchasing agent if the bill is passed, said Rep. Etta Mae Hutcheson, D-Pima.

The vote on the measure was 42 to 15, with three representatives not voting. Rep. Ethel Maynard was the only Pima Democrat who favored the bill.

Rep. Scott Alexander, R-Pima, primary sponsor of the

(Continued on 2A, Col. 1)