In 1975, on the first joint U.S.-U.S.S.R. space flight, the American Apollo spacecraft docks with the Soviet Soyuz spacecraft in Earth's orbit.

Keywords
Apollo Spacecraft, Soyuz Spacecraft, Docking, American Astronauts, Russian Cosmonauts, Soviet Union, President Gerald Ford, Joint Flight, Link, Gravity, Orbit, NASA, Hatch, Cold War, Politics, Communications, Apollo-Soyuz Test Project, ASTP, Thomas Stafford, Vance Brand, Donald Slayton, Alexei Leonov, Valeri Kubasov

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**APA**


**CHICAGO MANUAL OF STYLE**


**Transcript**

In 1st US-USSR Joint Space Flight, Apollo Docks With Soyuz

JOHN CHANCELLOR, reporting:

Good Evening. Americans and Russians rode together in space today, one hundred and forty miles above Soviet-American rivalries on this planet. The American spacecraft Apollo traveled for nearly two days and almost eight hundred thousand miles to link up with the Russians in Soyuz riding passively in orbit. And a few hours later for the first time, men from different countries shook hands, sharing gifts and food up in space. It began today as the Apollo caught up with the Soyuz craft, put on its breaks and eased into a docking position. Here’s how that went.

THOMAS STAFFORD (Astronaut): Houston, Apollo.

Houston Mission Control: Go ahead Tom.

STAFFORD: It was a soft docking.

Houston Mission Control: Roger Tom, we’ll pass it on.

CHANCELLOR: And then the historic moment had arrived; time to open the hatch.

Unknown: We’ve got a great picture of Tom in the hatch.

CHANCELLOR: At the White House President Ford had been watching it all on television, he had seen the Russian and American launches from Washington, and now it was time for the President to place what might be called a very, very long distance call.

PRESIDENT GERALD FORD: Yes?

Unknown 1: The astronauts are on the line sir.

PRESIDENT FORD: Gentlemen, let me call to express my very great admiration for your hard work, your total dedication in preparing for this first joint flight. General Stafford, Tom, now that you’ve had an opportunity to test the new docking system, do you think it will be suitable for future international man spaceflight?

STAFFORD: Yes sir, Mr. President, I sure do. Out of the three docking systems I’ve used, this was the
smoothest one so far; it worked beautifully.
PRESIDENT FORD: I congratulate everybody connected with the flight, and particularly the five of you who are setting this outstanding example of what we have to do in the future to make it a better world. And may I say in signing off, here’s to a soft landing.
STAFFORD: Thank you very much. Thank you Mr. President, it’s certainly been an honor to serve the country and work here.
PRESIDENT FORD: We’ll see you when you get back.
STAFFORD: Yes sir.
CHANCELLOR: Although most of the work on the Apollo-Soyuz test project is being done by the Americans with their more sophisticated equipment, there was a strong sense of satisfaction, even jubilation in the Soviet Union today.