

Marvelous Superb Exciting

June 6, 2001.

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Keywords: space development, population boom, food shortage, resource depletion, space life, space travel, international cooperation, world welfare

What are we expecting from space development?

There is a growing demand for practical and feasible solutions for serious problems which we have or are going to have. One of these is the rapidly growing earth's population. It is well known that if the growth rate remains at the current level, the population of the earth will explode. As a consequence, we face a loss of living space and dire food shortages. Another rigorous issue is the depletion of natural resources and energy. It is well documented that at the current consumption rate, natural resources like fossil fuels and certain kind of metals will be used up in the near future. In this respect, space development can make a practical contribution.

These issues are very important and must be solved immediately, but I believe there is quite a different thing we are longing for: something marvelous, superb and definitely exciting.

At one time, flying in the air was literally a miracle. It used to be and probably still is incredible, impressive and fantastic. Today we have a dream just like that, like "living in space" or "going to another planet!" Yet stunning technology is not the only thing we are hoping for. In the coming International Space Station, for example, astronauts from many countries some of them who used to be enemies will work together. Probably for the first time in the history of humankind, people from countries all over the world will help each other and work for the welfare of all of us, in the final frontier: *space*. It is a big step. It is a breakthrough. It makes us feel happy to live in this century, or even to be born into this world! This is something everyone feels to support.

I have wondered why so many people are in favor of space development. Now I believe that it is because space development is aiming at all these extremely high purposes.