

# Text of Public Law 98-562, Originally Senate Joint Resolution 236, and Presidential Statement

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Ninety-eighth Congress of the United States of America

AT THE SECOND SESSION

*Begun and held at the City of Washington on Monday, the twenty-third day of January,  
one thousand nine hundred and eighty-four*

## Joint Resolution

Relating to cooperative East-West ventures in space.

Whereas the United States and the Soviet Union could soon find themselves in an arms race in space, which is in the interest of no one;

Whereas the prospect of an arms race in space between the United States and the Soviet Union has aroused worldwide concern expressed publicly by the governments of many countries;

Whereas the 1972-1975 Apollo-Soyuz project involving the United States and the Soviet Union and culminating with a joint docking in space was successful, thus proving the practicability of a joint space effort;

Whereas, shortly after the completion of the Apollo-Soyuz project, and intended as a followup to it the United States and the Soviet Union signed an agreement to examine the feasibility of a Shuttle-Salyut program and an international space platform program, but that initiative was allowed to lapse;

Whereas the United States signed a five-year space cooperation agreement with the Soviet Union in 1972, renewed it in 1977, then chose not to renew it in 1982;

Whereas the United States *recently* proposed to the Soviet Union that the two Nations conduct a joint simulated space rescue mission;

Whereas the Soviet Union has not yet responded to the substance of this proposal; and

Whereas the opportunities offered by space for prodigious achievements in virtually every field of human endeavor, leading ultimately to the colonization of space in the cause of advancing human civilization, would probably be lost irretrievably were space to be made into yet another East-West battleground: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled That the President should—*

(1) endeavor, at the earliest practicable date, to renew the 1972-1977 agreement between the United States and the Soviet Union on space cooperation for peaceful purposes;

(2) continue energetically to gain Soviet agreement to the recent United States proposal for a joint simulated space rescue mission; and

(3) seek to initiate talks with the Government of the Soviet Union, and with other governments interested in space activities, to explore further opportunities for cooperative East-West ventures in space including cooperative ventures in **such areas as space medicine and space biology, planetary science, manned and unmanned space exploration.**

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

*Vice President of the United States and  
President of the Senate*

**THE WHITE HOUSE**Office of the Press Secretary

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For Immediate Release  
October 30, 1984

**STATEMENT BY THE PRESIDENT**

I am today signing Senate Joint Resolution 236, relating to cooperative East-West ventures in space.

**Space** represents a challenging opportunity for the United States and for ail of mankind; a challenge that, I am determined, we will meet. We stand today on the threshold of a great adventure. Beyond are vast opportunities — for the production of new materials, new medicines, and the expansion of our knowledge of the universe and of ourselves.

This must be a cooperative effort. We have worked with many other nations in our own space program and this cooperation will strengthen and grow. Many countries have taken part in the successful spacelab program, and I have invited other nations to take part in the development of a space station.

I find portions of the language contained in the preamble to the Joint Resolution very speculative. However, I have stated several times our desire to increase contacts with the Soviet Union, and we are prepared to work with the Soviets on cooperation in space in programs which are mutually beneficial and productive. As part of this effort, the United States has offered to carry out with the Soviet Union a joint simulated space rescue mission. We believe this and similar cooperative programs offer practical benefits for all mankind. It is in that spirit that I today sign this Joint Resolution.