



**PRESIDENTIAL COMMISSION  
OF INQUIRY  
FOR MEMBER'S EYES ONLY**

**TOP SECRET**

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THE WHITE HOUSE  
WASHINGTON

September 14, 1973

Senator Arthur Franklin  
United States Senate  
Washington D.C.  
By Special Courier

RE: Presidential Commission of Inquiry

Senator Franklin,

You are hereby appointed to the Commission of Inquiry investigating the reappearance of the ANSA One spacecraft in California yesterday. The Commission's mandate is to examine all available evidence to determine the fate of Colonel Taylor & his crew and, more importantly, exactly who re-launched the spacecraft with the three chimpanzees aboard.

The attached briefing dossier includes a background paper from NASA on the ANSA project & flights, General Brody's report on the recovery of the spacecraft, an evaluation of the apes found aboard the spacecraft by Dr. Lewis Dixon of the Los Angeles Zoo and a brief analysis by my Scientific Advisor, Dr. Otto Hasslein. Additional background materials can be provided upon request.

The first session of the Commission will be in Los Angeles tomorrow at 11AM. You are required to attend. Dr. Dixon and his associate, Dr. Stephanie Branton, will present the two surviving male & female apes to the commission for examination.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Matthew Williams". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

Matthew Williams  
President of the United States

**TOP SECRET**

# NASA

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

Briefing Report:

**A**dvanced **N**uclear **S**tellar **A**cceleration Project



September 14, 1973

# **NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

## **Background**

Congress authorized the Advance Nuclear Stellar Acceleration (ANSA) Project in 1965 after it was determined by NASA that human colonization of this solar system would be unfeasible. Due to the lack of any planets or satellites that were able to support human life without the need complex bio-dome and life support facilities, any such efforts would be highly cost prohibitive. Therefore, the only alternative was to explore Earth-like planets in other solar systems.

The objective of the ANSA project was to develop and build a space vehicle capable of transporting humans to another stellar system and returning them safely to the Earth. Said vehicle would be multi-purpose in design to be capable of traveling at close to light speed, landing on a planet, or other interstellar body and re-launching itself into space for the voyage back to Earth.

## **Nuclear Fusion Drive**

To travel the vast distances between stars a whole new drive system had to be developed. The great breakthrough came in 1967 with the invention of the Nuclear Fusion Drive. Theorized by French Engineering Professor Jean-Luc Antelle, the Nuclear Fusion Drive system is compact and yet capable of accelerating up to 0.95 of light speed. Thus, it was perfect for use in ANSA spacecraft.

## **The ANSA Command Spacecraft**

Carried in to high Earth orbit by a Saturn VI rocket the ANSA Command Spacecraft is a multi-purpose vehicle. Three stages in all each with a particular function:

- Stage one - landing stage: Equipped with both a heat shield and jet engines The landing stage allows the ANSA ship to land in the manner of a conventional aircraft on planets with an Earth-like atmosphere. Additionally, the landing stage could right the ship for re-launching acting as a launch platform for Stage two.
- Stage two - re-launch stage: This is the main stage of the vehicle containing both the Nuclear Fusion Drive and three standard rocket engines capable of re-launching the vehicle off an alien planet. Also



## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

included in this stage were the crew's quarters and suspended animation chambers.

- Stage three - re-entry capsule: The re-entry capsule's function is just that, for re-entry into Earth's atmosphere upon the ship's return with the ship's secondary heat shield. It is the re-entry capsule of the ANSA I craft that was recovered in California yesterday.



### ANSA I

- The Mission

ANSA I was NASA's first attempt to reach another stellar system. Their goal was ambitious but simple, journey to the Betelgeuse system. If there is an Earth-like planet in the system; land the ship and explore for three days before returning to Earth. If unable to return to Earth begin colonization.

The Betelgeuse system was chosen over other closer systems for two reasons:

1. Scientists determined a greater likelihood of Earth-like planets there than in closer stellar systems.
2. Travel time would be essentially the same. Professor Antelle explained this in a 1971 press conference:

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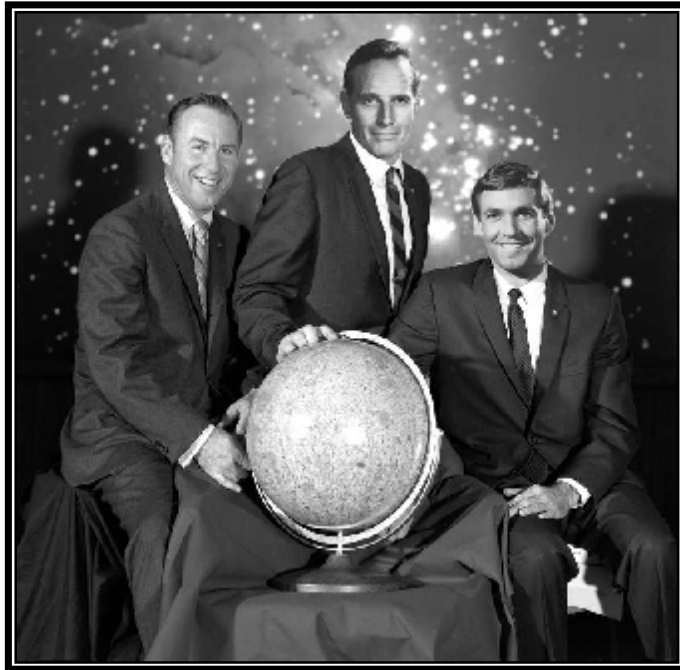
"Twelve months of acceleration; twelve months of reducing speed; between the two, only a few hours, during which we shall cover the main part of the journey. And at the same time you will understand why it scarcely takes any longer to travel to Betelgeuse than to Proxima Centauri. In the latter case we should have to go through the same indispensable year of acceleration, the same year of deceleration, and perhaps a few minutes instead of a few hours between the two. The overall difference is insignificant."

- **The Crew**

Four astronauts were assigned to the ANSA I mission. Each with unique skills and expertise:

- **George Taylor, Col. USAF, Ret. - Mission Commander**

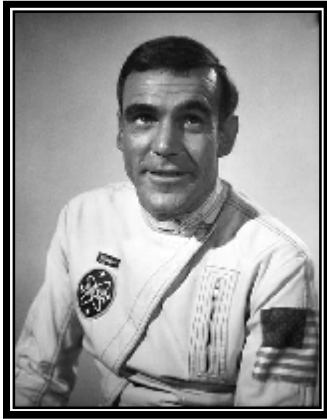
Veteran of both the Korean and Viet Nam conflicts, Taylor resigned his Air Force commission in 1963 and was chosen as part of the second group of NASA astronauts. Taylor served as Pilot and then Mission Commander on



two Gemini flights as well as Commander on Apollo 6 (shown here with fellow crew members Lovell and Virdon). Given the choice of commanding one of the later Apollo moon landings or the first ANSA mission, Taylor chose the latter. He christened the ANSA I spacecraft with the unofficial name of Icarus, but many at NASA came to call it Liberty I.

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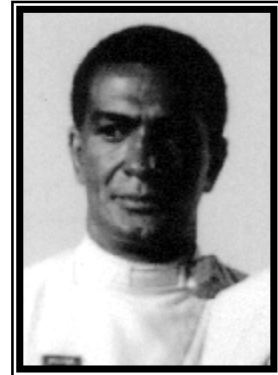
### ○ John Landon, Captain USAF - Mission Pilot



Captain Landon has served in the Air Force for seven years and is a graduate of the Astronaut class of 1972. Upon attaining the number one position in his class he was immediately selected for this historic flight. This is his first space mission.

### ○ Dr. Jeff Dodge - Mission Specialist

Dr. Dodge is a brilliant scientist holding multiple PhDs in Geology, Climatology and Meteorology; thus, making him the perfect choice to survey any planet to determine its suitability for colonization.



### ○ Dr. Diane Stewart, Lieutenant USN - Medical Officer



Lt. Stewart is a Medical Doctor. She graduated top of her class at Harvard Medical School, interning at John Hopkins. Upon joining the Navy, she served on bases in Asia. Recruited by NASA 3 years ago, Lt. Stewart is responsible for providing all medical services to the crew on this mission.

### ● The Hasslein Controversy

Throughout the planning stages of the ANSA I mission, Presidential Science advisor, Dr. Otto Hasslein, contended that the journey would be a one-way trip. Dr. Hasslein, supporting theories popularized by Einstein, suggested that time itself would slow in a vehicle traveling at close to the speed of light. Thus, while it

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

would only take a crew two years to reach a given destination; hundreds, perhaps thousands, of years would have elapsed back on Earth. A small but vocal minority of NASA personnel, including George Taylor, supported this theory and at times the resulting controversy became rather heated.

As a direct result of Dr Hasslein's concerns, two clocks, each independent of the other, are now installed into the cockpit of all ANSA series spacecraft. The first is a standard chronometer that measures ship time. The other is an Earth time clock that measures the passage of time on Earth based upon the relative positions of nearby stars. Since the circumstances of the ANSA I spacecraft's return to Earth have yet to be established; the validity of Dr. Hasslein's theories are likewise yet to be determined.

- **Flight History**



The ANSA I spacecraft launched from Cape Kennedy on January 14th, 1972. Initially the flight proceeded smoothly and according to plan. But then, twenty-one days into the mission, as the ship neared the edge of our Solar System; all communications were lost. Continuous efforts to restore contact with the crew proved unsuccessful until, on February 16th 1972 at 02.15 Hrs., ANSA I completely disappeared from all NASA tracking systems. While the fate of the ANSA I spacecraft remained unknown, public pressure in an all-

important, election year, motivated the President and several influential Senators to demand that a rescue mission be 'fast tracked' for launch to determine the fate of Taylor and his crew.



# NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

## ANSA II

- The Mission

Originally conceived to explore the Vega system, ANSA II was quickly re-assigned to a search-and-rescue mission.

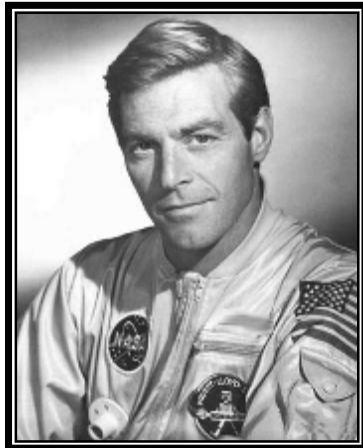
- The Crew

The ANSA II, like its predecessor, was originally designed to sustain a crew of up to four. When mission parameters were altered to rescue (and possible retrieval) and given the high-risk nature of the exercise, it was considered prudent to crew the ship with just two volunteers, selected from original candidates.

- Andrew Maddox, Captain USN - Mission Commander

Captain Maddox was recruited in the second group of astronauts in the early '60s. A veteran of three previous space missions, two Gemini and one Apollo, Maddox is one of NASA's most experienced astronauts.

- John Brent - Mission Pilot



An experienced test pilot, John Brent is one of NASA's handful of civilian astronauts. Brent's only previous space mission was as Command Module pilot for the first Skylab crew. That mission almost ended in disaster when SBS engine failed to retrofire for the craft's return to Earth. Luckily, a quickly assembled rescue mission was able to save the crew.

- Flight History

ANSA II was launched almost three months to the day after the launch of ANSA I. The flight plan had the second spacecraft follow the exact same trajectory as ANSA I. As with ANSA I, all communications with ANSA 2 were lost twenty-one days into the mission and soon after the ship disappeared from all NASA tracking screens. It was then presumed that both ships had disintegrated upon leaving the solar system, possibly as a result of a hitherto unsuspected defect in the nuclear fusion drive. Consequently the ANSA project was suspended pending further investigation. Due to the return of the ANSA I capsule; that decision is now being re-assessed.

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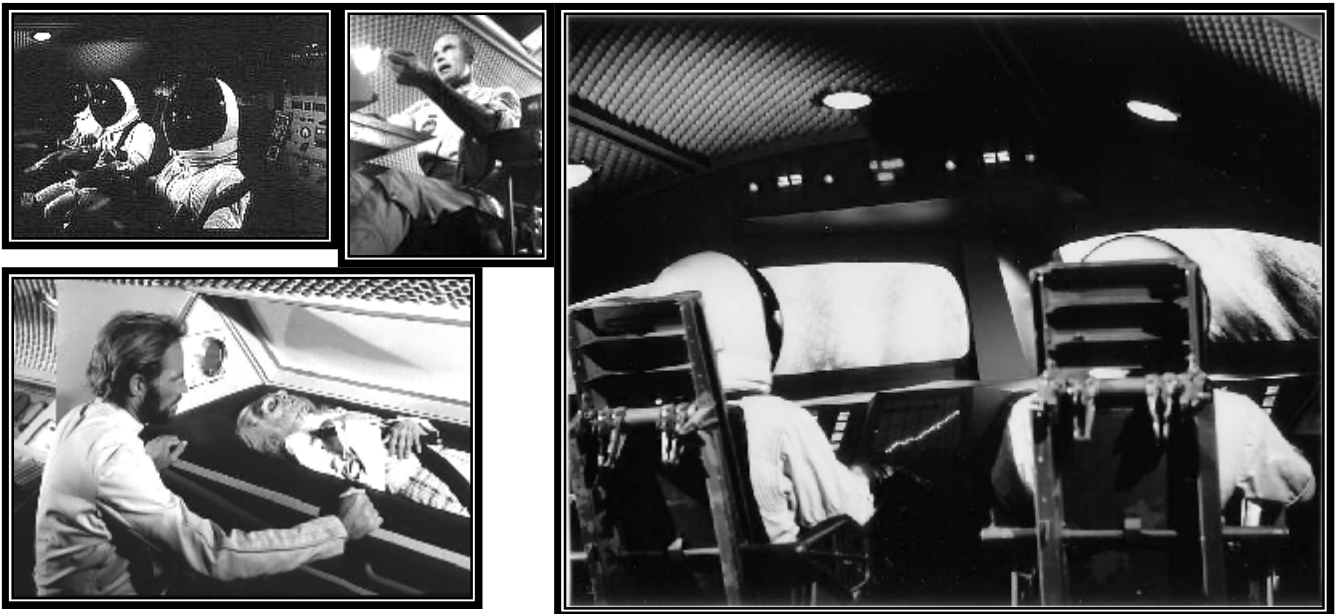
## The Recovered Capsule

The ANSA I capsule is currently en route from Mt. Palomar Air Station to the Johnson Space Center in Houston. When the ship arrives in Houston, NASA will fully examine the craft and the flight synthesizer to answer many of the questions regarding fate of the original crew and how what some are calling the "Ape-o-nauts" came to crew the ship. Until that time anything else is sheer speculation.

The ship underwent a basic preliminary examination at Mt. Palomar by NASA technicians preparing it for the trip to Houston. From this exam only the following could be determined:

- It is indeed the ANSA I spacecraft commanded by George Taylor.
- They traveled for 18 months before landing somewhere as yet to be determined.
- The ship went into a hibernation mode as a safety precaution shortly after landing.
- It was revived from hibernation several weeks later and re-launched on automation several weeks after that.

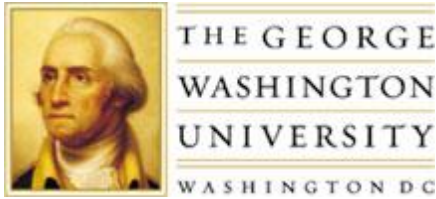
Also, these images were downloaded from the ship's flight computer. However, until a fuller analysis is completed, these photographs cannot be put into the proper context.



When all NASA tests are completed, a detailed report will be forwarded to the President.

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE U.S. MARINE CORPS CG-4308 (REV. 6-04)				<b>REPORT OF INCIDENT</b>				CLASSIFICATION STAMP <b>TOP SECRET</b>		
PI F23	NOCI NA	ROI 3-F	R/R	I/R GR-A	RLD CCN 325J4	DLD NA	STATUS (Pend, Closed, Supp) Closed	TA SW	SR NA	UF
INCIDENT Recovery of ANSA One Spacecraft										
REPORTING OFFICER Major General Donald Brody, USMC							DATE OF INCIDENT 9/13/73			
ASSIGNMENT/LOCATION Commanding Officer, Mt. Palomar Air Station							CONTROL AGENT NA			
PARTICIPATING AGENTS Red Baron 5, Recovery Unit 382, Naval Rescue							REVIEW SUPERVISOR Col. Winthrop			
REMARKS <p>05:26 Hours: Unidentified object appeared on Norad radar screens over Pacific Ocean. Object was on re-entry trajectory heading for the coast of Southern California. No corresponding land or sub based launch had been previously detected so enemy attack was ruled out. Norad concluded was that object was piece of space debris that had fallen out of orbit and would burn up on re-entry.</p> <p>05:33 Hrs: Object tracked to splashdown in sector Alpha-Charlie off the coast of Southern California. Mt. Palomar Air Station notified by Norad. Duty Officer Captain Styles dispatched nearest patrol helicopter Red Baron 5 to Alpha-Charlie and notified me of incident.</p> <p>05:48 Hrs: Red Baron 5 reported spotting spacecraft offshore in Southeast corner of Alpha-Charlie at Lat:34° 0'9.89"N/Long:118°48'49.73"W. Capt. Styles ordered Naval Rescue chopper G-15 and Marine Recovery Unit 382 to location. Red Baron 5 remained on station.</p> <p>06:00 Hrs: Navel Rescue arrived at Alpha-Charlie. Frogmen secured spacecraft. Red Baron 5 returned to base.</p> <p>06:20 Hrs: Marine Recovery Unit 382 arrived at coastal location and began operations to tow spacecraft ashore.</p> <p>Continued on Sheet 2</p>										
<b>SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED</b>										
DISTRIBUTION President of the United States  Commandant, United States Marine Corps  Chief Administrator, NASA				SIGNATURE AND TITLE (Approving Authority)				DATE 9/13/74		
				<i>Major General Donald Brody, USMC</i>				REGION SW-CA		
CLASSIFICATION STAMP <b>TOP SECRET</b>				<p style="text-align: center;"><b>WARNING</b></p> <p>THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF THE MARINE CORP INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE. INFORMATION HEREIN IS SENSITIVE IN CHARACTER AND ITS SECURITY MUST BE PRESERVED. CONTENTS MAY BE DISCLOSED ONLY TO PERSONS WHOSE OFFICIAL DUTIES REQUIRE ACCESS HERETO. NO COPIES SHALL BE MADE AND CONTENTS MAY NOT BE DISCLOSED TO THE PARTY(S) CONCERNED WITHOUT SPECIFIC AUTHORIZATION FROM THE MARINE CORP INVESTIGATIVE SERVICE.</p>						

CG-4608	<b>REPORT OF INCIDENT</b> (continuation sheet)	
SUBJ: <u>Recovery of ANSA One Spacecraft</u> CCN: <u>325J4</u>		
<p>Details:</p> <p>06:30 Hrs: I arrived on scene via helicopter just as spacecraft was beached. I ordered that hatch of spacecraft be opened. Three figures emerged from the ship in full spacesuits. They removed their helmets and were discovered to be apes, chimpanzees to be exact. (And the largest chimpanzees I have ever seen.) Carpetbag recovered from ship at this time.</p> <p>06:35 - 09:55 Hrs: Spacecraft and Ape-o-nauts (as the men began to refer to them) were secured at the scene and transported back to Mt. Palomar Air Station via ground vehicles. I returned via helicopter. My aide, Col. Walsh, contacted NASA and the Los Angeles Zoo to arrange proper disposition of the ship and its "crew", respectively.</p> <p>10:00 Hrs: Ship and Ape-o-nauts arrived at Air Station. Apes secured in base detention center awaiting transfer to LA Zoo. Sentry observed apes changing into clothes from carpetbag.</p> <p>10:15 Hrs: Col. Walsh and myself arrived at detention center. Col. Walsh distributed oranges to apes. We observed them sitting at table eating oranges off of plates using knives and forks.</p> <p>11:40 Hrs: Representatives and transport team from NASA arrived to examine spacecraft and prep it for trip to Johnson Space Center in Houston.</p> <p>13:15 Hrs: Truck from Los Angeles Zoo arrived at Mt. Palomar and the three apes transferred to their care.</p> <p>20:30 Hrs: Spacecraft departed Mt. Palomar for Houston via C-5 Galaxy which concluded my responsibilities and those of my command regarding this incident.</p>		
FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY PUBLIC AVAILABILITY TO BE DETERMINED UNDER 5 USC 552 AND 552(a)	CLASSIFICATION STAMP <b>TOP SECRET</b>	PAGE <u>2</u> OF <u>2</u> PAGES



OTTO HASSLEIN, PhD, T.S.  
Office of Scientific and Technical Research  
c/o Office of Chief Research Officer  
2121 Eye Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20052

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14 September 1973

RE: Presidential Commission of Inquiry

Gentlemen,

I, acting as the Presidential Scientific Advisor, have been requested by President Williams to prepare this pre-Inquiry brief regarding the unexpected and unanticipated re-emergence of the ANSA One spacecraft, commanded by George Taylor, from its deep space trajectory.

I am afraid that there is not a great deal that can be factually determined, at this juncture. Obviously, there will not be any relevant information forthcoming from the two ape passengers, inaccurately referred to as “ape-onauts” in the popular press. It is inarguable that *Pan troglodytes verus*, or Chimpanzee Robustus, as our guests appear to be, do not possess the intellectual powers of articulation, let alone coherent speech, considering that their cerebral organs are not sufficiently developed in either the Broca’s area in the inferior frontal gyrus of the left frontal lobe of the cortex, or the prefrontal cortex of the cerebrum.

I, therefore, find myself in the dubious position to hypothesize a theory to explain these events. I find this to be an untenable position without further information. However that may be, it is my unsubstantiated belief that it is quite possible that our neighbors, and chief detractors, the Union of Soviet Socialists Republic may have committed the ultimate act of piracy and captured the ANSA One spacecraft and substituted the apes passengers in the stead of our astronauts. Why, you may ask. It is easily conceivable that they wish to embarrass or even humiliate our space program, or indeed our very government, with this fiasco. I believe that this is a real socio-political threat that we cannot rule out. If my beliefs are determined to be so, by this august board; I urge that a plan of action be outlined forthwith and to be forwarded immediately to President Williams.

As to the mystery of the ape passengers aboard the ANSA One spacecraft, I may be in a better condition to offer a more concise explanation after the Commission holds its Inquiry; surely, I will be in a better position once the NASA experts finish their examination of the spacecraft.

Respectfully,

*Dr. Otto Hasslein*

Dr. Otto Hasslein

cc: POTUS



Los Angeles  
**ZOO**  
& BOTANICAL GARDENS

**Lewis Dixon, PhD**  
Animal Psychologist – Doctorate  
American Board of Veterinary Specialties

September 14, 1973

### Psychological Evaluation

**Animal type:** Simian: Chimpanzee  
**Sex:** 1 Female, 2 Males  
**Age:** Unknown/Adult  
**Referral Source:** U.S. Marine Colonel Walsh, Mt. Palomar Air Base

**Reason for Referral:** Three chimpanzees arrived via US spacecraft off the coast of southern California. It is unknown where they came from or why. I was approached by the Marine Colonel Walsh to examine and test the abilities of these chimpanzees in order to prepare a report for the Military and NASA. *Unfortunately, due to an unfortunate accident one of the male chimps was killed this morning. In an unprovoked attack the gorilla in the adjoining cage flew into rage and was able to get a hold of one of the chimpanzees, choking him to death. I have ordered a full autopsy of the deceased chimpanzee. The results of this will be made available in a few days when it is completed.*

**Other History and Presentation:** The three chimpanzees arrived by Marine Ambulance and were escorted to the Los Angeles Zoo facility here in Los Angeles. The surviving male weighs in at 155 pounds and stands at 5' 8", while the female weighs in at 135 pounds and stands at 5' 4". They appear to be a hybrid descendant of our common *Pan troglodytes*, found throughout Western and Central Africa. A written report from the Air Base indicates the usual imitatory behaviors: mimicking salutes, hand-shaking, sitting on chairs, and eating off plates with knives. Of note: they arrived with a suitcase full of clothes that they changed into upon arrival at the Air Base.

**Evaluation Procedures:** The evaluation was held at the Los Angeles Zoo infirmary. This female chimpanzee was present with two other chimpanzees from the US spacecraft. The testing area was a large caged area. In an adjoining cage was a male gorilla. Also in the infirmary were a couple of other smaller animals. Present at the examination were the zookeeper and my associate, Dr. Stephanie Branton. The zookeeper reported that the animal was "uppity," so I suggested using caution with our approach. The animal appeared docile enough, and we began the examination. I consider this evaluation to be a valid and reliable estimate of these chimpanzees' level of understanding and abilities. The following evaluation tools were used:

**Wisconsin Multiphasic (WMI)**  
**Modified Behavior Scale (Survey Interview)**

**Evaluation Results:** Testing was interrupted during the WMI phase I (brief, untimed, visual analysis, and a multiple-choice pointing response) so the test was unscored. The





female used a careful analysis, was not impulsive, and made immediate and accurate choices of both color and shape. When presented with phase II, (non-verbal problem solving abilities, blocks, and banana motivator) the chimpanzee was quick to find a solution, building a staircase by interlocking the blocks and climbing to the top in reach of the banana. Upon reaching the top, she sat and stared at the banana, apparently satisfied with the solution, but was uninterested in the reward. Although the chimp seemed impulsive, she was methodical and showed advanced intelligence.

It was at this time (while we were out of the room to aid Dr. Branton, who had fainted) that the gorilla in the adjoining cage became agitated, attacked and killed one of the male chimpanzees. Given those circumstances, I have not had the opportunity to give more than a broad, cursory examination of the two survivors.

**Behavioral Observations:** The remaining two chimpanzees showed shock and grief at the death of the third. I would say that they have been well taken care of, domestically, and at least acclimated to the company of humans. Unlike the chimpanzees that we condition to push a few buttons, they seem quite capable of problem solving and making choices. They have been observed to be social and accommodating, sharing food and affection. Both chimpanzees appear harmless and eager to explore. In captivity, chimpanzees can live to be 60 years old. Given their estimated age of approximately thirty years old, we can expect ample opportunity over the next thirty or so years for observation and more detailed study. We may even learn where they have come from and what they have come for.

*Dr. Lewis Dixon*

Lewis Dixon, PhD  
Animal Psychologist – Doctorate

THE PARANET RATING OF THE ENCLOSED DOCUMENTATION IS S5/P12:

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COPY ONE OF

ONE.

BRIEFING DOCUMENT: ANSA PROJECT

PREPARED FOR: SENATOR ARTHUR FRANKLIN  
(EYES ONLY)  
14 SEPTEMBER, 1973

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