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## Muskie Says Time Alone To Tell If Trip Fruitful

By DONALD R. LARRABEE  
WASHINGTON — Sen. Edmund Muskie (D-Maine) said Sunday that "time alone will tell" whether the Mansfield fact-finding mission for President Johnson will make a contribution toward world peace.

The Maine senator, one of five-hand-picked for the probe, was in Washington Saturday, based at his suburban Washington home after a 21-day trip that included discussions with kings, prime ministers and presidents in some of the world's trouble spots.

Muskie said he could not discuss the substance of the dis-

ussions nor predict the results. The significant data collected by the group will be reported directly to President Johnson by the leaders. Sen. Mike Mansfield (D-Mont.) said Muskie said he believes it is right that the President have the first chance to "hear and evaluate our information and decide whether it is useful or whether it could be fruitful."

FOR THE MAINE senator, it was clearly one of the most challenging assignments of his public career. It was a working trip which included 40-50 official conferences with the

highest officials in residence of every country visited. Because it had obvious White House blessing, the mission's significance may not be fully understood by diplomatic observers.

Muskie repeatedly declined to discuss details of the talks with world leaders. He said the senators were prepared to talk on any subject raised by their hosts. Conference details are to be probe and explore.

"There is a certain usefulness," he explained. "In having our position stated directly to those who are in a position to

act, if they are so inclined. If we can keep the lines of communication open and maintain a climate favorable to rational discussion, we make progress toward resolving our differences."

"WHETHER OUR TALKS produce results may not be immediately apparent," he continued. "Obviously, the President has the final word. His task is to probe and explore. There is no way of telling what road will prove to be the productive one. But we were able to talk, as men should, who seek a constructive result."

The Maine senator said Southeast Asia was "readily the most fascinating part of the trip." Mrs. Muskie and other wives accompanied the senators, but remained in Bangkok, Thailand, while the men spent a week traveling in the semi-tropical areas of Laos, Cambodia and Viet Nam.

They met King Sihanouk and the Lao Prime Minister, Prince Souvanna Phouma; Prince Sihanouk, the strongman of Cambodia; and General Ky, Viet Nam's prime minister, as well as other officials of these countries. Throughout

this broad area, which Muskie was seeing for the first time, the senator said he was impressed by the richness of the resources and the misery and poverty of the masses of the people.

"Here," said Muskie, "are all the makings of restlessness, the ingredients that create political instability and a climate for what you want to exploit."

THE MUSKIES ARRIVED back in Washington on the presidential plane just before midnight Saturday but didn't get to bed until 3 a.m. The

children were excited and waiting for the fascinating story of the trip. The senator has taken hundreds of slides pictures which will help in re-telling the adventure.

In Tokyo, one of the last stops, the Muskies purchased Christmas ornaments and spent Sunday decorating the family tree with their daughters. They will remain in Washington during the holidays. The senator expects to spend time on a report to the President and the Senate which, he hopes, will contribute something toward the Christmas message of peace and good will.



They Met Before

Gemini 6 and Gemini 7 astronauts, who performed last week's historic space rendezvous, meet again Sunday at Cape Kennedy, Fla. Left to right

are Walter Schirra and Thomas Stafford, who rode Gemini 6, and Frank Borman and James Lovell, of Gemini 7.

## Joyous Astronauts In 'Rendezvous' At Scene Of Historic Launching

CAPE KENNEDY, Fla. (AP) — Kissing one another and bubbling with mutual congratulations, America's rendezvous of Gemini astronauts playfully round-hugged Sunday. They spent 45 minutes reliving their historic adventure.

Gemini 6 astronauts Walter M. Schirra Jr., and Thomas P. Stafford were not on hand to greet their Gemini 7 counterparts, Frank Borman and James A. Lovell Jr., when the world's most traveled spacemen

landed at "skid strip," Cape Kennedy's runway.

Instead, Schirra was lurking in a doorway at astronaut crew quarters, on neighboring Merritt Island. As Borman and Lovell walked down the hall, Schirra bounded out and began wildly swinging his arms as if the Gemini 7 astronauts needed landing instructions.

Stafford also was there but did not participate in the initial antics.

"There was a lot of handshaking and mutual congratulations," said astronaut Donald K. Slayton, director of the Gemini 7 crew.

One of the first things the four astronauts did was to call off their well publicized bet over which crew would land closest to the prime recovery ship, the aircraft carrier Wasp.

Schirra, who had bet that

poor weather disrupted what was supposed to be a colorful ceremony for the astronauts at the airport.

He was abominated by an on-again off-again girlfriend.

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