

have been studied extensively. We are determining the interrelationship of operational objectives and desired vehicle characteristics with advanced technology requirements, systems integration and operational characteristics.

SUMMARY

During the past year we have continued in a well planned and orderly fashion to explore the options which are open to us in our quest to determine the next major national space goal. We have evolved a step-by-step concept and have devised a base-line plan for a manned space flight program of the type which permits us to proceed with a minimum of commitment to the long range future.

We foresee the capability for continuous operations in earth orbit becoming available to us in the 1970's, leading to manned planetary reconnaissance and extended exploration of the lunar surface, in that same time period. All in turn could be pointed toward a possible manned mars landing in the decade of the 1980's, should such a national space goal be selected.

The funds requested for Advanced Manned Missions activity in fiscal year 1968 will permit us to pursue this program recognizing, however, that these efforts do not satisfy all the recommendations made by the scientific community and in the President's Science Advisory Committee report published in February 1967. We consider this program as being austere in its funding while moving toward a firmer understanding of the technology required to meet future needs.

MANNED SPACE FLIGHT FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

Let me turn next to the fiscal year 1968 funding required to maintain the Nation's Manned Space Flight Program. As outlined on this chart (fig. 127, MP67-5440), the fiscal year 1968 Manned Space Flight R. & D. requirements are \$3,069.2 million. We are also requesting \$27.9 million for Construction of Facilities, and \$323.5 million for Administrative Operations at the three Manned Space

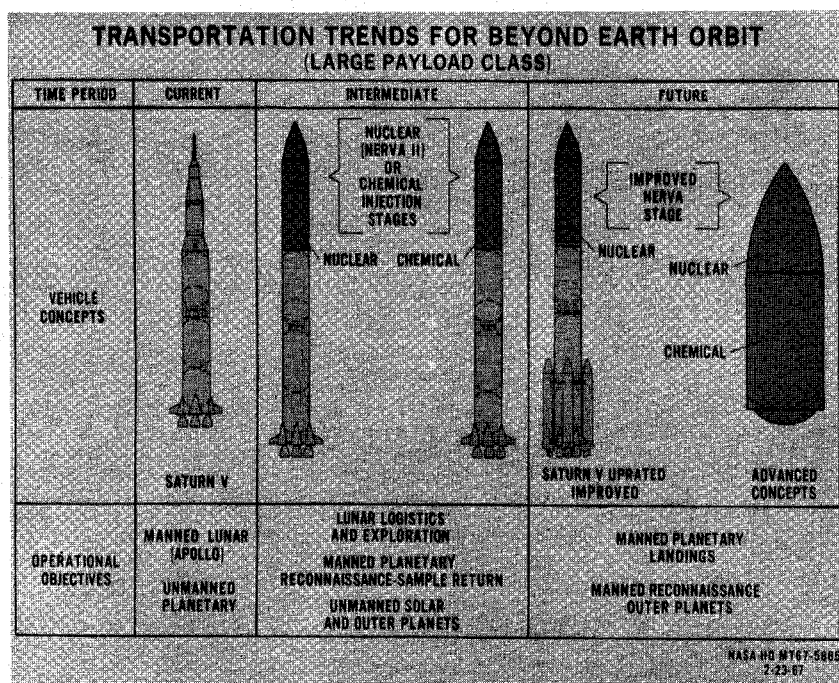


FIGURE 126