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**President Kennedy Commits Nation to Moon Landing by End of Decade**

Dateline

WASHINGTON (May 25, 1961) — President John F. Kennedy announced today before a joint session of Congress the nation's commitment to landing a man on the Moon and returning him safely to Earth before the end of this decade.

Pithy Lede/Lead

Amid the Cold War's competitive backdrop and the burgeoning space race with the Soviet Union, Mr. Kennedy's bold announcement not only aims to secure the United States' leadership in space but also to unite the nation in a peaceful pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

"The eyes of the world now look into space, to the Moon and to the planets beyond," President Kennedy said. "This nation has vowed that it will not see space filled with weapons of mass destruction, but with instruments of knowledge and understanding."

A solid quote

"We choose to go to the Moon in this decade and do the other things,” he added. “Not because they are easy, but because they are hard.”

The historic undertaking will require significant investments in technology, resources, and manpower, heralding a new era of innovation and exploration that will likely spur advancements in various scientific fields.

The President's speech has already sparked a wave of enthusiasm and support that is beginning to spread across the nation, with some communities already planning rallies, parades, and other events to celebrate the Moon mission announcement.

For more information on the President's announcement and the United States' space exploration efforts, including the next steps in the planned mission to the Moon, please visit <https://www.nasa.gov/history/the-decision-to-go-to-the-moon/>

End with a *“for more info”* or another quote

Yes, I know the internet didn’t exist in 1961 😊.

I suppose back then they would have invited journalists to call or write.

**About President Kennedy**

John Fitzgerald Kennedy, known as JFK, is the 35th President of the United States, having taken office in January 1961. Born on May 29, 1917, in Brookline, Massachusetts, Kennedy graduated from Harvard University and served as a naval officer during World War II. His military service is highlighted by his leadership on the PT-109 patrol torpedo boat. Before his presidency, Kennedy represented Massachusetts in both the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate.

Add supplemental info here.

**About NASA**

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), established in 1958, is the United States government agency responsible for the nation's civilian space program and for aeronautics and aerospace research. NASA has been at the forefront of global space exploration since its inception, achieving historic milestones such as launching the first American satellite, sending the first American astronaut into space, and conducting numerous unmanned missions to explore the solar system.

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*If you have a high-res image or two, and/or official logos, you can include them here. You can also attach them in your email to the journalist(s).*