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Richard Nixon and the American Space Program

John Logsdon, Professor Emeritus George Washington University

Wednesday, May 6, 2015

4:30 PM Refreshments 5:00 PM Lecture Begins 6:00 PM Book Signing

Lees-Kubota Lecture Hall, Guggenheim Building California Institute of Technology

On July 20, 1969, U.S. astronaut Neil Armstrong took "one small step for a man, one giant leap for mankind." The success of the Apollo 11 mission satisfied the goal that had been set by President John F. Kennedy just over eight years earlier--"before this decade is out, landing a man on the moon and returning him safely to earth." It also raised the question "What do you do next, after landing on the Moon?"

It fell to President Richard M. Nixon to answer this question. This talk will trace in detail how Nixon and his associates went about developing their response, reducing the priority of the NASA space program, thereby ending human space exploration and then approving the space shuttle.

No registration is required for this open lecture. Seating is limited and is available on a first come, first served basis.