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Statement for Vice President Humphrey

For several years now we have been looking upward toward the moon and beyond. Today our minds are soaring only 22,300 miles into space with the world's first commercial communications satellite so aptly named "Early Bird".

Early Bird is scheduled to go into commercial service after system checkout is completed. That will be in about 7 or 8 weeks from now. It will link Europe and North America with 240 telephone circuits, almost double the number now in existence. It will make possible intercontinental live television on a regular basis. Alternatively it will provide more than 4,500 teletype circuits.

In terms of the future, I can do no better than quote a few words of President Johnson's progress report to the Congress as required by the Satellite Act. "The program of the United States in conjunction and in cooperation with other countries is moving forward strongly. Important basic decisions remain to be made as the system comes into being. But it has moved decisively and is becoming a practical reality."

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