

Office of the White House Press Secretary

THE WHITE HOUSE

STATEMENT BY THE VICE PRESIDENT
ON THE NATIONAL SUMMER YOUTH
SPORTS PROGRAM

Captain James A. Lovell has joined me today to announce a new program on earth rather than in space. While most Americans are familiar with astronaut Lovell's part in the successful Apollo 8 mission, he has another role and another mission as the President's Consultant on Physical Fitness and Sports. We believe he will be equally successful here.

Today I am pleased to announce the establishment of a national summer youth sports program which will provide summer day camp experience for an estimated 75,000 young people living in urban areas.

The program will enable disadvantaged youngsters in 40 metropolitan areas across America to attend summer day camps which will be held on the campuses of 120 colleges, universities and junior colleges.

Colleges will contribute their gymnasiums, swimming pools, tracks, playing fields and special purpose rooms as well as a full-time program director and capital sports equipment at a cost of \$1.55 million.

The balance of the program's cost will be financed through a transfer of \$3 million in OEO funds to the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare which will assume responsibility for the program.

The program will be administered by the National Collegiate Athletic Association under contract to the Department of HEW. The President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports which I chair as Vice President, has been assigned by HEW Secretary Finch to supervise the program. Captain Lovell directs staff activities for the Council.

This national program is modeled after the highly successful summer sports program conducted last year at the University of Southern California for youngsters from the ghetto area near its campus.

The 40 metropolitan areas have been chosen on the basis of population size and percentage of poverty level families. Our prime target is to reach the inner city youngster who has no recourse but the streets during the long, hot summer.

Obviously we cannot reach every child we want. We hope to reach many in the heart of these cities' poverty areas to provide at least a 5 week respite of recreation and relaxed education.

This is a beginning. We are tapping resources heretofore unused and reaching youngsters heretofore unknown. As Captain Lovell knows from experience, you cannot reach the moon on the first flight. But you can never reach the moon if you will not try.

This year's success will pave the way for greater participation and expand horizons of hope where hope is most needed -- right here at home.

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