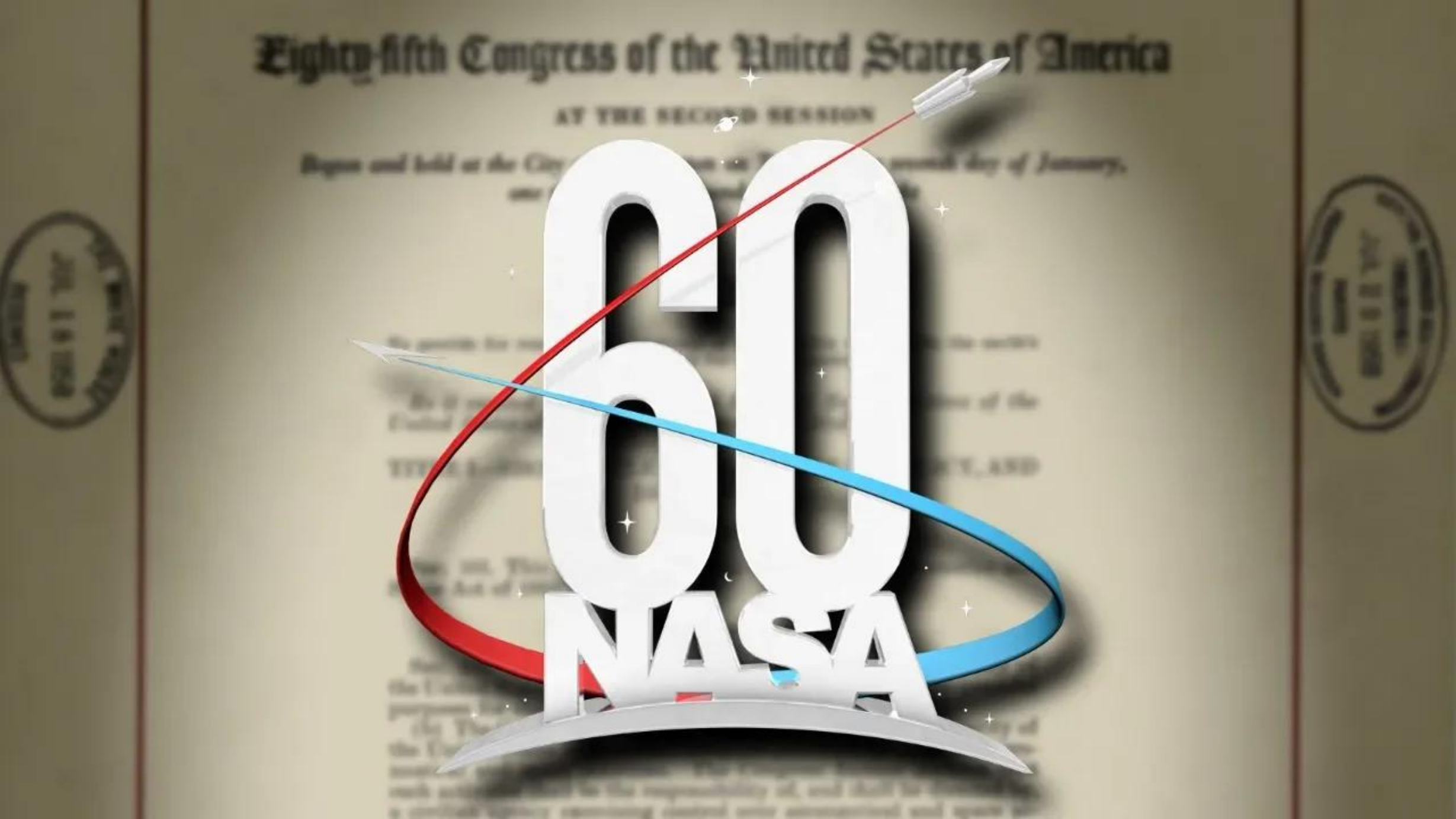
Eighty-fifth Congress of the United States of America
AT THE SECOND SESSION
60
NASA

1
00:00:27,340 --> 00:00:31,400
The United States wanted to make clear
that our space program was a civil effort

2
00:00:31,400 --> 00:00:33,700
and scientific effort.

3
00:00:33,700 --> 00:00:36,290
President Eisenhower was concerned that our

4
00:00:36,290 --> 00:00:42,060
efforts in space exploration and research
would be consolidated and made more effective.

5
00:00:48,760 --> 00:00:55,060
NACA is to become part of a new agency, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

6
00:00:55,220 --> 00:00:58,760
You can be justly proud
of the fact that your past achievements

7
00:00:58,760 --> 00:01:04,940
have made NACA the choice of all governmental
agencies out of which to build the new agency.

8
00:01:05,260 --> 00:01:07,960
The NACA starts
taking a look at particularly high speed

9
00:01:07,970 --> 00:01:12,500
flight as part of Aeronautics but that
quickly blends into Space Research.

10
00:01:12,500 --> 00:01:17,640
They start using rockets to do high-speed research on airplanes and eventually on re-entry vehicles.

11
00:01:18,460 --> 00:01:24,120
The NACA is a repository of aerospace scientific skill

12
00:01:24,300 --> 00:01:27,420
and aerospace geekdom as
well I suppose to some extent.

13
00:01:27,420 --> 00:01:30,640
They were people very interested in flight and quite

14
00:01:30,640 --> 00:01:33,860
and of course
naturally space as well but it sort of

15
00:01:33,860 --> 00:01:36,820
sets them up to become the core of NASA.

16
00:01:36,960 --> 00:01:38,560
So the transition between the two

17
00:01:38,570 --> 00:01:42,480
organizations was like seamless in that
sense.

18
00:01:42,480 --> 00:01:44,600
The technicians were superb the

19
00:01:44,600 --> 00:01:49,820
people that you had mentoring you were
just superb. So in the early days,

20
00:01:49,820 --> 00:01:53,020
the attitude was still let's get the job done.

21
00:01:53,140 --> 00:01:55,540
NASA must be like NACA

22
00:01:55,680 --> 00:01:59,980
in the qualities of strength and character that make an organization great.

23
00:02:08,180 --> 00:02:10,371

Today a new moon is in the sky,

24
00:02:10,380 --> 00:02:14,960
a 23 inch metal sphere placed in orbit by a Russian rocket.

25
00:02:15,000 --> 00:02:17,500
Political pressure builds rapidly in the United States.

26
00:02:17,500 --> 00:02:18,720
There's hearings in Congress.

27
00:02:18,720 --> 00:02:21,640
There's calls for the United States to do something dramatic.

28
00:02:21,760 --> 00:02:23,820
A lot of pressure
gets put on Vanguard.

29
00:02:24,760 --> 00:02:26,260
The first American attempt

30
00:02:26,260 --> 00:02:28,380
with a Vanguard rocket was a failure.

31
00:02:29,940 --> 00:02:32,160
We were having mostly explosions with our rockets.

32
00:02:32,160 --> 00:02:37,170
It seemed like 5, 4, 3, 2, 1, blow up more than

33
00:02:37,170 --> 00:02:39,400
liftoff back in those days.

34
00:02:41,800 --> 00:02:44,460
We've been assigned the mission and launching a

35
00:02:44,460 --> 00:02:45,840
scientific earth center.

36
00:02:45,840 --> 00:02:47,190
I promised the Secretary of the Army

37
00:02:47,190 --> 00:02:49,880
that we would be ready in 90 days or less.

38
00:02:56,180 --> 00:02:58,460
The news media have found out about

39
00:02:58,460 --> 00:03:00,300
the fact that we're gonna launch a satellite

40
00:03:00,420 --> 00:03:04,440
and I heard there was something like 200
news media came in.

41
00:03:04,660 --> 00:03:06,500
At one time, they measured

42
00:03:06,540 --> 00:03:11,120
the jet stream wind at 227 miles an hour

43
00:03:11,130 --> 00:03:11,960
over the Cape.

44
00:03:11,960 --> 00:03:14,840
Well, of course, it would
have driven the rocket off course,

45
00:03:14,840 --> 00:03:17,200
Range Safety would have blown it up immediately.

46
00:03:17,200 --> 00:03:19,580
The next day my calculation showed there was

47
00:03:19,580 --> 00:03:21,360
a wave in the jet stream.

48
00:03:21,360 --> 00:03:23,420
By evening there would be a

49
00:03:23,420 --> 00:03:27,100
window of opportunity. I convinced him
that probably would do it.

50
00:03:27,100 --> 00:03:31,400
And so he said okay, we'll listen to the kid
go a fuel the rocket.

51
00:03:31,520 --> 00:03:33,820
And things went well.

52
00:03:33,820 --> 00:03:38,900
5, 4, 3, 2, 1.

53
00:03:44,720 --> 00:03:47,280
A project like firing a
satellite

54
00:03:47,280 --> 00:03:51,060
into orbit is only possible if

55
00:03:51,060 --> 00:03:54,480
there is splendid teamwork all the way through.

56
00:03:54,480 --> 00:03:56,159
There were scientists all around

57
00:03:56,159 --> 00:03:59,940
the world that were dedicated to trying
to understand the planet better

58
00:03:59,940 --> 00:04:02,280
and this is what Explorer 1 was really designed for.

59

00:04:02,280 --> 00:04:04,820
One of the things that I find very noble about NASA

60
00:04:04,820 --> 00:04:06,300
and I think it's really
useful to remember is

61
00:04:06,300 --> 00:04:07,100
it started with science.

62
00:04:07,109 --> 00:04:10,280
We wanted to observe the Earth
from space

63
00:04:10,280 --> 00:04:12,540
and we wanted to see what the environment

64
00:04:12,540 --> 00:04:14,200
right up above the earth was
like

65
00:04:14,200 --> 00:04:15,480
and this is the incredible thing

66
00:04:15,480 --> 00:04:17,560
the first time we venture up there

67
00:04:17,560 --> 00:04:19,440
we discover something completely unexpected,

68
00:04:19,440 --> 00:04:21,440
the Van Allen radiation belts.

69
00:04:21,560 --> 00:04:23,360
And there were these radiation belts of particles

70
00:04:23,370 --> 00:04:25,540
from the Sun trapped in our magnetic
field.

71
00:04:25,540 --> 00:04:27,700
We hadn't even guessed that they were there yet.

72
00:04:27,820 --> 00:04:31,880
The purpose of the work
is a scientific one and it's very nearly

73
00:04:31,889 --> 00:04:34,100
pure scientific experimentation.

74
00:04:34,100 --> 00:04:38,580
The more we understand about the nature of

75
00:04:38,580 --> 00:04:40,500
our astronomical environment

76
00:04:40,500 --> 00:04:43,229
and about our own earth is quite likely the more

77
00:04:43,229 --> 00:04:45,840
we'll be able to do about it and do with it.

78
00:05:05,920 --> 00:05:08,220
We have one of the most challenging assignments

79
00:05:08,220 --> 00:05:11,200
that has ever been given to modern man

80
00:05:11,200 --> 00:05:14,680
expansion of human knowledge about space

81
00:05:14,680 --> 00:05:16,840
development and operation of vehicles

82
00:05:16,840 --> 00:05:21,360
capable of carrying instruments and man through space

83
00:05:21,380 --> 00:05:23,500
long-range studies of the benefits of using

84
00:05:23,500 --> 00:05:28,900
aeronautical and space activities for peaceful and scientific purposes

85
00:05:28,900 --> 00:05:31,500
preservation of the role of the United States