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Revealed in upcoming episodes of this program are the contents of a recently unearthed,

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00:00:30,000 --> 00:00:37,000

repository classified by the secret government, the Phenomenon Archives.

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00:01:00,000 --> 00:01:27,600

We all want to believe that what we read in the papers is true, yet each of us has had

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00:01:27,600 --> 00:01:33,240

to come to terms with the fact that things aren't always as they seem. Today we're going

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00:01:33,240 --> 00:01:38,200

to visit the site of the US partnership with Russia in the International Space Station,

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00:01:38,200 --> 00:01:47,200

Freedom. A worthy endeavor, of course, but at what cost? Stay with us.

7

00:01:57,600 --> 00:02:27,560

Space is the inescapable challenge to all the advanced nations of the Earth. It was

8

00:02:28,200 --> 00:02:31,680

the first space-faring nation to establish the United States as the preeminent space-faring

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00:02:31,680 --> 00:02:38,640

nation. First for the coming decade for the 1990s space station freedom, and next for

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00:02:38,640 --> 00:02:50,640

the new century, back to the moon, back to the future, and this time back to stay.

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00:02:50,640 --> 00:02:55,960

The Soviet space program single-handedly changed the course of history, propelling civilization

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00:02:55,960 --> 00:03:01,880

to the greatest era of achievement ever known. With a workforce of over one million people

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00:03:01,880 --> 00:03:07,240

and a virtually unlimited budget, this organization set the standard for space exploration during

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00:03:07,240 --> 00:03:21,240

the height of the Cold War, leaving the Western world in its dust. In today's Russia, the

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00:03:21,240 --> 00:03:26,000

once mighty Soviet space program is in a complete shambles, a toppling Goliath whose

16

00:03:26,000 --> 00:03:31,800

atomic science and rocket technology are being put under the hammer, a vatable ad auction

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00:03:31,800 --> 00:03:40,800

to the highest bidder. Teetering on the edge of a mass exodus are the many underemployed

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00:03:40,800 --> 00:03:47,560

and unpaid rocket and nuclear scientists capable of building weapons of mass destruction.

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00:03:47,560 --> 00:03:52,000

Out of necessity, these very able men and women are forced to consider propositions

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00:03:52,000 --> 00:03:59,520

from unfriendly nations like Libya, Iraq and Iran, each offering millions to secure their

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00:03:59,520 --> 00:04:11,520

services.

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00:04:11,520 --> 00:04:16,240

You've heard about the delays, you've read about the cost overruns, but what is the actual

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00:04:16,240 --> 00:04:20,440

extent of the problems encountered during the construction of the International Space

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00:04:20,440 --> 00:04:27,160

Station? Where does the official story end and the truth begin? Billions upon billions

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00:04:27,160 --> 00:04:32,280

of dollars lost, pilfered or squandered on faulty workmanship and parts. If there ever

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00:04:32,280 --> 00:04:37,520

was a story that was intended to be buried, it's this one. Luckily, because of the recent

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00:04:37,520 --> 00:04:42,120

unearthing of the phenomenon in archives, government had no place to hide its guilty

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00:04:42,120 --> 00:04:43,120

secret.

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00:04:43,120 --> 00:04:51,440

When we are talking about the current situation in the Russian space research and space industry,

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00:04:51,440 --> 00:05:03,040

it's the same as the old Russian economy. It's declining. And I can use the word dying.

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00:05:03,040 --> 00:05:08,880

And if it will be not special intensive care, it will die.

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00:05:08,880 --> 00:05:14,240

With the best political intentions, the American executive branch has initiated a high-tech

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00:05:14,240 --> 00:05:20,680

drama, drawing an unwitting NASA and the American taxpayer into a convoluted welfare program

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00:05:20,680 --> 00:05:27,400

designed to keep Russia's nuclear scientists and engineers working on peaceful projects.

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00:05:27,400 --> 00:05:37,800

95% of the Russian space industry, of all the institutions, design, bureau infrastructure,

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00:05:37,800 --> 00:05:45,480

is doing nothing, is idling. Whatever they get from the government, because most of this

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00:05:45,480 --> 00:05:52,520

activity is not in private sector, is like very modest welfare.

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00:05:52,520 --> 00:05:57,040

Inadvertently, at the center of this very secret American effort, is one of the greatest

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00:05:57,040 --> 00:06:02,840

creative enterprises ever attempted by a consortium of international governments, the construction

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00:06:02,840 --> 00:06:11,640

of the International Space Station. Originally designed to be the most illustrious man-made

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00:06:11,640 --> 00:06:17,640

project since the pyramids, the space station has undergone redesign after redesign to compensate

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00:06:17,640 --> 00:06:25,240

for the ongoing hemorrhage of money to the Russians. Tragically, the once great dream

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00:06:25,240 --> 00:06:30,560

of a glorious space outpost has turned into little more than an ineffectual orbiting laughing

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00:06:30,560 --> 00:06:37,560

stock. The state of the Russian space program, from

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00:06:37,560 --> 00:06:46,160

our standards, is a shambles. And in some ways, you can look at it as a testimony to

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00:06:46,160 --> 00:06:54,600

the incredible talent of the Russian engineers, scientists and cosmonauts to even have a space

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00:06:54,600 --> 00:07:00,240

program. While at the forefront of rocket technology,

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00:07:00,240 --> 00:07:05,640

the Soviets are first to put a satellite into Earth orbit, first to send probes to the moon,

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00:07:05,640 --> 00:07:13,440

Mars and Venus, first to send a man into space, first to conduct a space walk, first to put

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00:07:13,440 --> 00:07:19,320

a three-man crew into space, and the first to put a manned space station into orbit.

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00:07:19,320 --> 00:07:24,440

Though they lose the race to the moon, the Russians continue to pioneer space station

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00:07:24,440 --> 00:07:32,560

technology through the 1970s and 80s. We choose to go to the moon in this decade and do the

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00:07:32,560 --> 00:07:39,920

other things, not because they are easy, but because they are hard, because that goal will

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00:07:39,920 --> 00:07:46,480

serve to organize and measure the best of our energies and skills, because that challenge

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00:07:46,480 --> 00:07:53,000

is one that we're willing to accept, one we are unwilling to postpone, and one we intend

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00:07:53,000 --> 00:08:01,760

to win. When we beat them to the moon, they took a different

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00:08:01,760 --> 00:08:10,200

direction, and they began to think in terms of long-term missions, they began their exceptional

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00:08:10,200 --> 00:08:18,560

work with space stations, but their program wasn't ending itself. There was never any

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00:08:18,560 --> 00:08:27,200

pragmatic use for it other than defense. In 1986, the Soviets complete construction

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00:08:27,200 --> 00:08:32,640

of the mirror, large and complex with its many separate modules, designed for extended

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00:08:32,640 --> 00:08:37,880

space exposure and experimentation, it represents the ultimate accomplishment in space station

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00:08:37,880 --> 00:08:44,880

technology. Soviet space officials designed the mirror station to last only five years,

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00:08:44,880 --> 00:08:49,280

confident they will build their next-generation space station by the end of Mir's life in

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00:08:49,280 --> 00:08:59,080

1991. In 1991, it was still the Soviet Union, I can recall going to Star City for the 30th

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00:08:59,080 --> 00:09:04,040

anniversary of Yuri Gagarin's flight, how things had changed. I'm sitting in an amphitheater

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00:09:04,040 --> 00:09:08,240

with cosmonauts and astronauts, we have a society called the Association of Space Explorers,

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00:09:08,240 --> 00:09:15,680

and I'm sitting next to Alexei Leonov, who was the first man to walk in space. I sneezed.

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00:09:15,680 --> 00:09:20,200

She said, God bless you. Can you say God bless you? I thought all the cosmonauts couldn't

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00:09:20,200 --> 00:09:29,720

believe in God, soon we can. That August, it came apart, it became Russia. With the

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00:09:29,720 --> 00:09:34,480

collapse of communism and the disintegration of the Soviet Union, economic hardships begin

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00:09:34,480 --> 00:09:39,920

to seriously undermine the entirety of Russia, bringing the already struggling space program

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00:09:39,920 --> 00:09:48,880

to its knees. Though Soviet scientists continue to work through untold hardship, their support

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00:09:48,880 --> 00:09:56,680

in government wanes, and the political scene in Russia becomes dangerously unstable. One

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00:09:56,680 --> 00:10:02,600

of the driving factors in the space program was the western block, competing with the

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00:10:02,600 --> 00:10:08,480

eastern block to prove technical superiority. We showed our national will and our macho

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00:10:09,440 --> 00:10:14,440

by having the strongest space program. We beat the Russians to the moon. We wanted to

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00:10:14,440 --> 00:10:21,240

beat the Russians everywhere across the cosmos. When the Berlin Wall came down, everything

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00:10:21,240 --> 00:10:33,000

changed. At that time, scientists on both sides had a rather naïve idea that if there

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00:10:33,000 --> 00:10:38,880

would be no Cold War, we could come together and we would get all the money which we had

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00:10:38,880 --> 00:10:48,880

wasted for military budgets of boss superpowers. So now Cold War is over and we do not see

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00:10:48,880 --> 00:10:57,760

such phenomena. We do not see peace dividends for new, really outstanding space projects.

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00:10:57,760 --> 00:11:02,960

Gone are the days of the million man staff. Gone are the days of the billion dollar budget.

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00:11:02,960 --> 00:11:08,480

But worse, the Russian space program must endure a split in public support. Russian

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00:11:08,480 --> 00:11:13,560

efforts in outer space become a symbol for many of the old Soviet Empire. This memory

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00:11:13,560 --> 00:11:21,760

is weighted with anguish, suffering, and cultural deprivation. With less than nothing to fall

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00:11:21,760 --> 00:11:27,120

back on, associated scientists and physicists seek desperately to supplement their sagging

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00:11:27,120 --> 00:11:32,520

wages through whatever means available as the space program spirals down into a state

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00:11:32,520 --> 00:11:42,600

of utter bankruptcy. With the Russian economy in ruins, what consequences

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00:11:42,600 --> 00:11:47,880

are being felt by other members of the space station partnership? Boeing, the largest private

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00:11:47,880 --> 00:11:52,880

aerospace company in the U.S., recently canceled its development of the commercial supersonic

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00:11:52,880 --> 00:11:58,760

airplane because they lost NASA as a financial partner. Hundreds of space and technology

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00:11:58,760 --> 00:12:04,640

jobs have been sacrificed at NASA alone. But why? Why have a space program at all if

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00:12:04,640 --> 00:12:11,800

your resources are so limited? Well, we are talking about how people survive

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00:12:11,800 --> 00:12:19,200

there. Of course, it's impossible to survive if you will think only about your salary because

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00:12:19,200 --> 00:12:24,880

in many cases they are not paying salaries for months and years. It's not only in this

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00:12:24,880 --> 00:12:31,000

space. It isn't all research. I know my one, my friend, he's in the computer science

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00:12:31,000 --> 00:12:41,000

and he has six jobs. Some scientists are using their private cars to look for passengers,

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00:12:41,000 --> 00:12:48,160

accidental customers during night times, and that's a big issue. How scientists or engineers

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00:12:48,160 --> 00:12:55,680

can survive in this economic climate? I know of one story of a Russian scientist

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00:12:55,680 --> 00:13:07,400

and he was a leading life scientist expert and he always has a very good tan. And when

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00:13:07,400 --> 00:13:11,600

you think of a very good tan in the United States, you think, well, this guy is living

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00:13:11,600 --> 00:13:17,920

it up. He's out on the Riviera or he's going down to Odessa and he's getting his tan because

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00:13:17,920 --> 00:13:24,280

he's in such a prestigious position that he has the money to do such a thing. In reality,

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00:13:24,280 --> 00:13:30,080

he gets his tan because he has to grow his own vegetables because he does not get paid

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00:13:30,080 --> 00:13:40,080

from his government. And so instead of spending all of his time working in life sciences,

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00:13:40,080 --> 00:13:48,480

he is growing turnips, holding turnips and taking care of his garden so that he can feed

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00:13:48,480 --> 00:13:57,720

himself and his family. The recent joke from Russia, it's Mr. Chubais, who was a chief government

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00:13:57,720 --> 00:14:03,080

operator, was briefing Yeltsin about the state of Russian science. He said, you know, Mr.

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00:14:03,080 --> 00:14:12,760

President, I'm surprised. We do not pay them salaries on time, do not support their research,

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00:14:12,760 --> 00:14:21,520

but these guys are coming to their laboratories every day. So after a pause, President said,

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00:14:21,520 --> 00:14:32,200

maybe you should charge money for that. The Russians launched a supply ship, Tumor, and

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00:14:32,200 --> 00:14:39,920

the cosmonauts were on board. And when the ship actually docked with the Mir and the cosmonauts

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00:14:39,920 --> 00:14:45,600

opened up the packages, they realized that a significant portion of the food was missing.

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00:14:45,600 --> 00:14:53,040

Apparently what happened was that underpaid or unpaid workers at the space complex had

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00:14:53,040 --> 00:14:59,160

actually pilfered the rations because they had not received pay for the work that they

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00:14:59,160 --> 00:15:06,800

had been doing over the past six months to a year. Russia maintains the Mir for nearly

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00:15:06,800 --> 00:15:12,240

ten years beyond its intended lifespan, harvesting hundreds of millions of dollars in rent from

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00:15:12,240 --> 00:15:18,440

foreign space programs with their own scientific interests. When the aging space laboratory

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00:15:18,440 --> 00:15:23,680

begins to falter, NASA and other tenants of the Mir, fearful of potential space disasters,

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00:15:23,680 --> 00:15:28,760

discontinue their missions to the orbiter. Rental payments for use of Mir come to an

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00:15:28,760 --> 00:15:36,280

abrupt end, compounding the space program's financial woes. Without this financial support

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00:15:36,280 --> 00:15:43,440

to continue its upkeep, the Mir's fate seems sealed. The Russians, forever attempting to

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00:15:43,440 --> 00:15:49,200

generate new money around their expired resources, argue that the ailing space station is invaluable

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00:15:49,200 --> 00:15:53,680

to the process of constructing the new international space station.

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00:15:54,600 --> 00:16:07,440

There was a moment when Russian authorities on informal level in testing the waters desperately

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00:16:07,440 --> 00:16:15,120

tried to suggest to use the current Mir station as an early outpost for future international

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00:16:15,120 --> 00:16:21,640

space station. It was rejected. I don't think it was a good idea. It's not good to start

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00:16:21,640 --> 00:16:30,360

a new car implanting the old ancient engine. One story indicative of the extent of despair

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00:16:30,360 --> 00:16:36,160

unfolds when two cosmonauts landing to refuel at an air force base are held at gunpoint

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00:16:36,160 --> 00:16:42,160

by military police and prevented from taking off until the pilots can pay in cash for their

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00:16:42,160 --> 00:16:48,480

aviation fuel. Accounts of looting by space program workers are also reported at the International

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00:16:48,480 --> 00:16:57,560

Space Station launch site in Baconore. Certain factions of the workers get paid a little bit

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00:16:57,560 --> 00:17:01,680

and other factions don't and unfortunately this tends to be along racial lines and there

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00:17:01,680 --> 00:17:06,920

have been riots that have occurred. Buildings have been burned down, people have been killed.

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00:17:10,640 --> 00:17:17,360

The selling off of rocket parts has become commonplace amongst employees of Baconore.

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00:17:17,360 --> 00:17:22,880

As Cap can ever, this is the chosen launch site of the International Space Station.

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00:17:22,880 --> 00:17:27,360

Not wanting to miss out on any opportunity for financial gain, the Russian government

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00:17:27,360 --> 00:17:32,040

itself participates in this mass sell off of space program inventories.

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00:17:32,040 --> 00:17:37,080

We're not only seeing this happen with the space program, we're actually seeing this

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00:17:37,080 --> 00:17:47,120

happen in the military where one of the generals recently was indicted for trying to sell a

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00:17:47,120 --> 00:17:53,360

troop carrier to Spain. As a last resort, the Russians enter into partnerships with

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00:17:53,360 --> 00:17:58,000

foreign corporations hoping that a quick influx of cash will deliver them from their most

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00:17:58,000 --> 00:18:05,880

immediate needs. One of the great economic opportunities that some of the American aerospace

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00:18:05,880 --> 00:18:10,720

companies have taken advantage of is funding the Russian rocket companies, the Russian

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00:18:10,720 --> 00:18:16,320

aerospace companies making these boosters, providing them with a steady supply of capital

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00:18:16,320 --> 00:18:21,760

so that they can actually have a budget, that they can actually get parts, that they

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00:18:21,760 --> 00:18:27,120

can actually pay their workers. Partnerships with foreign investors provide a bandaid for

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00:18:27,120 --> 00:18:31,760

some of the short term issues faced by the Russians. Damaged infrastructure and out of

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00:18:31,760 --> 00:18:37,320

date inventories require much larger cash infusions. The monies provided by foreign interests

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00:18:37,320 --> 00:18:43,000

may simply be establishing a false sense of security in an industry where mistakes invariably

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00:18:43,000 --> 00:18:46,240

cost lives. The Russian boosters have a lot of potential

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00:18:47,160 --> 00:18:54,760

had a long tradition of being remarkably robust and remarkably dependable. Unfortunately,

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00:18:54,760 --> 00:19:01,320

these Russian boosters have had an unfortunate string of accidents and primarily these accidents

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00:19:01,320 --> 00:19:08,040

are related to a lack of money, scrounging for parts, scavenging parts to put together

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00:19:08,040 --> 00:19:10,600

a booster that is going to be complete.

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00:19:16,600 --> 00:19:21,920

The secrecy surrounding the Soviet space program is historically infamous. As a branch of the

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00:19:21,920 --> 00:19:27,160

military, mistakes were covered up to preserve political image. In our review of the Kremlin

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00:19:27,160 --> 00:19:31,720

Archives, we discovered an extensive list of deaths related to accidents occurring over

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00:19:31,720 --> 00:19:38,320

the space of the program's 40 years and this when budgets were high. All of these red flags

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00:19:38,320 --> 00:19:43,240

flapping in the breeze and yet we move forward with the Russians. Why?

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00:19:44,240 --> 00:19:50,040

During the planning stages of the International Space Station, many accomplished representatives

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00:19:50,040 --> 00:19:54,240

from the American space program speak out against including the Russians as a primary

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00:19:54,240 --> 00:20:05,440

partner. It is believed that their involvement will hopelessly inflate the budget while delaying

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00:20:05,440 --> 00:20:12,040

construction for months, if not years. If at any time in the mission, however, the limb had

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00:20:12,040 --> 00:20:17,680

been separated and we would gotten it. Despite the urgings of officials like Dr. Chris Kraft,

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00:20:17,680 --> 00:20:22,320

former director of NASA's Johnson Space Center, the American government pressures NASA into

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00:20:22,320 --> 00:20:27,440

bringing the Russians on board. NASA officials plainly object.

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00:20:32,440 --> 00:20:38,560

There have been several administrations that asked the Johnson Space Center, I'm talking

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00:20:38,560 --> 00:20:45,760

about political administrations, that asked us what benefit is there for us to gain from

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00:20:45,760 --> 00:20:52,240

working and flying with the Russians. And we always sent back a great big zero.

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00:20:54,760 --> 00:20:59,760

Finally, after the urgings of the executive branch proved insufficient motivation to align NASA

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00:20:59,760 --> 00:21:04,600

with the American government's agenda, the United States leadership orders its space

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00:21:04,800 --> 00:21:12,200

agency to form the partnership regardless of the expense. Several other countries join the

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00:21:12,200 --> 00:21:17,000

uneasy partnership with Russia, steadfastly committing to complete the new International

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00:21:17,000 --> 00:21:23,600

Space Station by the early 21st century. The spectrum of political problems surrounding

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00:21:23,600 --> 00:21:29,600

the project confound many members of the partnership. The Russians suffer new waves of

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00:21:29,600 --> 00:21:37,600

economic turmoil. Their budgetary commitments fall well short of contractual obligations.

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00:21:41,600 --> 00:21:46,400

Without the influx of Russian funding, many on the American side question what benefits,

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00:21:46,400 --> 00:21:54,400

if any, the United States will derive from the completed space station. Former United States

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00:21:54,400 --> 00:21:58,400

Senator and Apollo 17 moonwalker Dr. Harrison Schmidt.

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00:21:58,400 --> 00:22:05,000

A great deal of the effort is going in to try to make it an international space station rather than

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00:22:05,000 --> 00:22:10,600

one which the United States might find quite functional for its own purposes. We often forget

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00:22:10,600 --> 00:22:17,600

we already had a space station, Skylab in the 70s was a tremendously capable space station. We

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00:22:17,600 --> 00:22:23,100

learned a great deal there and in fact it's going to be a long time before the space station that's

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00:22:23,100 --> 00:22:28,300

under construction right now even comes close to matching what was possible and indeed what was

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00:22:28,300 --> 00:22:34,900

done with Skylab back in the 70s. And we should actually be calling the International Space Station

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00:22:34,900 --> 00:22:41,100

what it is which is not really science. We know pretty much what we need to know from our own

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00:22:41,100 --> 00:22:49,300

previous work about the long-term effects of space habitation. What the International Space

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00:22:49,300 --> 00:22:57,600

Station program ought to be called is an effort to aid Soviet and Russian science in sectors

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00:22:57,600 --> 00:23:04,300

where we feel the non-military character has to be increased and the military character has to be

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00:23:04,300 --> 00:23:11,700

diminished. Now if you've got political reasons for doing it and you want to that's part of the

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00:23:11,700 --> 00:23:17,300

game plan of the international cooperation and that's good thing to do and you want to keep the

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00:23:17,300 --> 00:23:22,300

Russian scientists inside of Russia instead of letting them the brain drain leave Russia that's

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00:23:22,300 --> 00:23:29,900

your problem. You tell us they want us to do that then by gosh we will do that when you tell us to

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00:23:29,900 --> 00:23:37,220

do it and we can do it and we will do it. But don't ask us is there anything to be gained from a

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00:23:37,220 --> 00:23:43,100

technical point of view and from a NASA point of view in working with the Russians the answer is no.

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00:23:43,900 --> 00:23:50,100

Several domestic and international security and defense agencies report that a number of oil rich

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00:23:50,100 --> 00:23:57,500

nations such as Libya, Iraq and Iran are soliciting the services of Russian scientists. By offering

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00:23:57,500 --> 00:24:03,200

millions in salaries and benefits these countries seek to develop nuclear capabilities and ballistic

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00:24:03,200 --> 00:24:07,400

weaponry with the help of the technical expertise of these accomplished men and women.

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00:24:07,400 --> 00:24:19,880

For very real and reasons people are concerned about keeping the scientists and engineers of

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00:24:19,880 --> 00:24:26,000

the Soviet Union employed in peaceful activities rather than possibly many of them going to the

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00:24:26,000 --> 00:24:32,160

highest bidder for not so peaceful activities particularly in the more terrorist-oriented

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00:24:32,160 --> 00:24:38,560

states of the world where they could contribute to the development of nuclear and biological

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00:24:38,560 --> 00:24:47,720

chemical weapons. This prospect is unthinkable to the U.S. and its other partners. The executive

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00:24:47,720 --> 00:24:53,800

branch positions itself to prevent this mass exodus. The International Space Station is

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00:24:53,800 --> 00:24:58,120

established as the flow-through project for funding the needs of Russian rocket scientists and

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00:24:58,480 --> 00:25:06,880

engineers to ensure that their special talents remain in Russia. That is an admirable goal

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00:25:06,880 --> 00:25:13,400

however the amount of money that the space station can contribute and that NASA can contribute to

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00:25:13,400 --> 00:25:19,440

that effort is very small compared to what's probably needed. The unwitting victims of this

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00:25:19,440 --> 00:25:25,800

affair are once again the American taxpayers never informed by their government that the space

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00:25:25,800 --> 00:25:32,080

station partnership is in reality a foreign aid project. They are duped into believing that the

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00:25:32,080 --> 00:25:40,480

financial burden is to be shared largely with the Russians. For their part the Russians never

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00:25:40,480 --> 00:25:45,840

have any intention of honoring their contractual obligation to be equal partners either financially

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00:25:45,960 --> 00:25:54,960

or technologically. The cost sharing was one of the original justifications for bringing Russia

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00:25:54,960 --> 00:26:01,680

and other nations into it but in the case of Russia it has not worked out. In fact Russia's

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00:26:01,680 --> 00:26:09,320

participation is costing us much more money now than we might have saved had they even performed

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00:26:09,320 --> 00:26:15,520

well and it's just a different game. The Russians were not prepared politically

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00:26:15,520 --> 00:26:23,960

or technologically or economically in order to participate in the space station program and we

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00:26:23,960 --> 00:26:28,680

knew that and many people predicted that this is what was going to happen and indeed their

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00:26:28,680 --> 00:26:35,720

predictions have come true. In its last cooperative effort Russia partnered in the design and launch

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00:26:35,720 --> 00:26:42,800

of an unmanned probe to Mars. An ominous signal of coming events one of the probes scavenged rockets

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00:26:42,800 --> 00:26:49,120

fails to ignite and the German finance multi-million dollar probe burns up in the earth's atmosphere.

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00:26:49,120 --> 00:26:56,960

Despite this and other costly Russian failures the United States enters into and continues to

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00:26:56,960 --> 00:27:03,880

sustain the partnership with regular infusions of hundreds of millions of American dollars. They

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00:27:03,880 --> 00:27:09,280

even redesigned the project to fit some of the more antiquated technical processes still employed

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00:27:09,280 --> 00:27:15,880

by the Russians. Despite the special provisions exceptions and dispensations made on their

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00:27:15,880 --> 00:27:23,280

behalf the Russians prove impossible partners attempting by every means to escape their contractual

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00:27:23,280 --> 00:27:33,160

obligations. Russia according to international division of labor is responsible for delivering

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00:27:33,160 --> 00:27:45,480

to orbit of two early modules. The first outpost model which is called FGB is built under contract

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00:27:45,480 --> 00:27:55,440

given by NASA. The second model so-called service model is under construction as a Russian contribution

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00:27:56,200 --> 00:28:05,400

to international space station and this is clearly underfunded and this is one of the major issues

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00:28:05,400 --> 00:28:15,000

debated between Russian government and US government. All the international participants of space

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00:28:15,000 --> 00:28:25,960

station are quite unhappy with the delays in Russia. Right now they're angry at us and we're angry

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00:28:25,960 --> 00:28:31,560

at them. It actually has produced the opposite result that we were seeking. We were trying to create a

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00:28:31,560 --> 00:28:40,960

collaborative cooperative joint venture on a grand scale with US taxpayer money subsidizing the

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00:28:40,960 --> 00:28:48,080

process and what it became was a source of great friction and tension and a lot of conflict and I

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00:28:48,080 --> 00:28:52,960

think if the Russian space agency staff could vote they would probably vote that NASA goes away

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00:28:52,960 --> 00:28:59,120

but they can't because it's not a democratic system and B that's what's keeping them afloat.

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00:28:59,120 --> 00:29:04,240

Frustrated NASA officials know full well that the international space station could have been

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00:29:04,240 --> 00:29:10,360

completed on time and on budget according to its original illustrious specifications had the

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00:29:10,360 --> 00:29:15,480

Russians not been involved. Their frustration is compounded by the fact that the space station

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00:29:15,480 --> 00:29:21,640

being built presents little potential for groundbreaking scientific work. The leadership of

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00:29:21,640 --> 00:29:26,360

the American government maintains its stalwart commitment to sponsor the Russian's decrepit

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00:29:26,360 --> 00:29:33,240

space program. From missed deadlines to inferior construction virtually every aspect of Russia's

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00:29:33,240 --> 00:29:40,160

participation in the effort proves inferior. This is not stopping their space officials from

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00:29:40,160 --> 00:29:47,680

making additional demands for cash as in desperation they hold the space station hostage. An additional

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00:29:47,680 --> 00:29:55,120

660 million American dollars are committed by the US supplementing the 700 million already shoveled

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00:29:55,120 --> 00:30:07,400

gratuitously in Russia's direction. With all of the political rhetoric about government spending

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00:30:07,400 --> 00:30:12,840

and cost control why haven't the floodgates been closed? With every conspiracy there's a winner

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00:30:12,840 --> 00:30:18,760

and a loser and we already know who the loser is the taxpayer but who wins in a situation like this?

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00:30:20,280 --> 00:30:25,720

Certainly the gun-running activities of Iran-Kantra were a far more dastardly and contemptible

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00:30:25,720 --> 00:30:31,000

example of government conspiracy as was the Reagan administration's blatant bypassing of

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00:30:31,000 --> 00:30:37,640

Congress and utter disregard for the American Constitution. Past wrongs however do not sanction

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00:30:37,640 --> 00:30:46,520

continued abuse of power. Even so the executive branch continues to defraud the American taxpayer

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00:30:46,520 --> 00:30:51,640

authorizing billions in payments to the Russians under the pretense of their essential participation

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00:30:51,640 --> 00:30:58,600

in the partnership. The American Congress long concerned over NASA being turned into a de facto

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00:30:58,600 --> 00:31:04,840

foreign relations branch of the government stands idly by. Apparently the political challenge of

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00:31:04,840 --> 00:31:09,880

cutting funding to the popular space station project is too great. Why rock the boat when

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00:31:09,880 --> 00:31:15,240

this funding can be so easily justified behind the pretense of limiting nuclear capabilities

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00:31:15,240 --> 00:31:21,400

around the world? They did not expect that state of Russian economy would deteriorate to such a

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00:31:21,400 --> 00:31:28,760

degree. Whatever is going to happen to the economy would provide an answer where the Russian space

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00:31:28,760 --> 00:31:37,800

is going in future. If economy would stagnate like today, the space station would be the last page
in

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00:31:37,800 --> 00:31:44,280

the Russian space program. And I happen to think that the International Space Station so far is

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00:31:44,360 --> 00:31:51,480

a program that's gone bad because we operated as though the Russian space agency was just like

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00:31:51,480 --> 00:31:57,160

any other contractor. When in fact it's a totally different animal that we don't even begin to

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00:31:57,160 --> 00:32:02,360

understand. The way that they make decisions, the way that they finance their programs, the way that

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00:32:02,360 --> 00:32:07,400

they set priorities, the way that they govern themselves, we have no idea how that works.

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00:32:07,880 --> 00:32:15,880

It's a very circuitous, very convoluted, frankly not very logical system of priorities and decisions.

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00:32:15,880 --> 00:32:21,560

I don't think we're very good at getting a grasp on it. With the president and the vice president

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00:32:21,560 --> 00:32:26,760

forcefully endorsing the Russian partnership on one side and Congress tightening the reins of

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00:32:26,760 --> 00:32:32,600

government subsidy on the other, NASA finds itself entangled in a gordian knot of partisan politics.

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00:32:33,320 --> 00:32:38,760

After surviving catastrophes like the explosion of the Challenger and the rescue of Apollo 13,

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00:32:38,760 --> 00:32:43,480

this groundbreaking, innovative civilian organization credited with the most important

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00:32:43,480 --> 00:32:48,280

technological breakthroughs of the century has become a pawnbroker to the Russians.

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00:32:51,320 --> 00:32:57,720

Despite this, NASA continues to repurpose dated technology and to work with an unmanageably

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00:32:57,800 --> 00:33:04,600

corrupt system to somehow install the bottom on the bottomless pit that is the Russian space program.

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00:33:04,600 --> 00:33:10,680

Struggling mightily to keep the president happy by continuing to fund the Russian effort,

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00:33:10,680 --> 00:33:16,760

NASA is forced to fight Congress for every dollar it receives. Ultimately, something must give.

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00:33:17,400 --> 00:33:22,920

NASA is forced to redesign the space station, lowering its overall cost through compromising

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00:33:23,080 --> 00:33:29,560

the final product. It is this series of redesigns that virtually eliminates any potential for

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00:33:29,560 --> 00:33:33,160

important scientific work. There's still a bickering about a space station.

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00:33:33,800 --> 00:33:40,520

The space station is going from a Taj Mahal to an outhouse. And it's an outhouse in orbit. It's about it.

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00:33:40,520 --> 00:33:47,400

Right now, it appears that those dollars that are being sent to the former Soviet Union,

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00:33:47,640 --> 00:33:55,640

primarily Russia, to ensure their participation in the space station may have been largely wasted.

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00:33:55,640 --> 00:34:00,200

And so that's the kind of thing you get into when you make your space program primarily

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00:34:00,200 --> 00:34:03,480

an instrument of the State Department. If you're going to have a federal government

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00:34:03,480 --> 00:34:07,160

space program, it should be in and of itself for its own purposes.

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00:34:08,680 --> 00:34:14,440

NASA is about the future. NASA is about rewriting physics textbooks and biology and

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00:34:14,840 --> 00:34:20,200

chemistry textbooks. NASA is about understanding where new sources of energy could come from

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00:34:20,200 --> 00:34:26,280

and how matter gets formed. NASA is about understanding who are we and why are we and

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00:34:26,280 --> 00:34:32,120

how do we relate to our universe. NASA is about understanding our universe and solar system

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00:34:32,120 --> 00:34:37,800

to better understand our own planet. NASA is about trying to understand how we could make

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00:34:37,960 --> 00:34:44,760

long-term predictive models of our weather and our climate so we could avoid natural disasters.

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00:34:44,760 --> 00:34:53,720

Let's throw the baby out with a bath water, so to speak. There is a lot of bad in anything.

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00:34:56,440 --> 00:35:01,400

I'm a super critical person when I talk to my colleagues about it, but I don't go out and

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00:35:01,400 --> 00:35:07,880

sell the world at NASA's doing all the wrong things. I mean, Mr. Goleman is doing the best he can.

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00:35:08,840 --> 00:35:13,720

Under the circumstances, he wouldn't have a space program if he didn't do what he's doing.

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00:35:14,840 --> 00:35:19,480

And I would say an answer to that. So what? Don't do it.

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00:35:22,600 --> 00:35:28,200

It could have been more. It could have been a project focused on developing the human

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00:35:28,200 --> 00:35:34,600

understanding, the physiological understanding of human beings, some of the technologies necessary,

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00:35:34,600 --> 00:35:39,720

as well as how to build things with indefinite life for use in space. All of those things are

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00:35:39,720 --> 00:35:44,520

important to going back to the moon and to Mars and on out into outer space, but that is not

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00:35:44,520 --> 00:35:50,760

the purpose of today's space station. There'll be some indirect fallout and valuable technologies

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00:35:50,760 --> 00:35:56,360

to come out of it, but it's not the primary thrust of that. Unless we call it what is,

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00:35:56,920 --> 00:36:02,360

we're perpetuating the kind of lie, which is a little bit similar to what we saw in the 60s. I

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00:36:02,360 --> 00:36:10,280

mean, it's not like we're covering up massive catastrophe malfeasance or other kinds of errors.

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00:36:11,160 --> 00:36:16,120

Here, we're just basically trying to gloss over the true story, which is that the Russian science

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00:36:16,120 --> 00:36:22,680

program, particularly space science, is on its knees and that we don't want somebody else getting

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00:36:22,760 --> 00:36:27,720

access to it because it has the potential to be used for weapons of mass destruction.

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00:36:28,920 --> 00:36:32,600

I think if we called it that, we'd be a lot clearer about our goals.

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00:36:38,200 --> 00:36:41,560

Why hide the truth and the evidence from the people of the world? Well,

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00:36:42,120 --> 00:36:45,960

the fact is that this kind of government suppression is not without precedent.

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00:36:46,680 --> 00:36:51,880

Through the 1960s, 70s, and 80s, the Soviet government grossly exaggerated the

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00:36:51,880 --> 00:36:57,480

accomplishments of its space program. It distorted reality by covering up its setbacks

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00:36:57,480 --> 00:37:01,800

and preventing public recognition of its cosmonauts, scientists, and engineers.

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00:37:03,400 --> 00:37:09,480

This systematic line to itself, its people, and to the world has sent the Russian space program

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00:37:09,480 --> 00:37:12,920

reeling to the point where it is now living in the light of its own shadow.

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00:37:16,280 --> 00:37:21,480

If the American government insists on relegating NASA to the role of political attaché,

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00:37:21,480 --> 00:37:26,200

while simultaneously lying to the American public about the true nature of the space station

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00:37:26,200 --> 00:37:33,240

partnership, NASA and the U.S. can expect little more than a place alongside the Russians in infamy.

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00:37:36,600 --> 00:37:44,280

The reality is that there is a chronic problem in Russian official organizations

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00:37:45,000 --> 00:37:51,800

in owning up to the truth. And the most recent financial crisis in August of 98 in Russia,

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00:37:52,440 --> 00:37:55,960

which practically saw the demise of the Russian economy as we know it,

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00:37:56,680 --> 00:38:02,840

and came very close to a meltdown. That was due to systematic lying, Yeltsin to himself,

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00:38:02,840 --> 00:38:07,160

not telling the truth. Yeltsin and his cabinet not talking the truth to each other,

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00:38:07,720 --> 00:38:12,280

the bankers in the West not wanting to see the truth of the situation in Russia.

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00:38:12,360 --> 00:38:16,760

And it really has dramatic implications. I mean, we fundamentally may get burned

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00:38:17,480 --> 00:38:20,760

in a global economic sense because of the way the Russians deal with the truth.

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00:38:21,800 --> 00:38:24,120

How does the U.S. government deal with the truth?

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00:38:25,080 --> 00:38:29,720

Humanity may be in danger should Russian rocket scientists move to unfriendly nations

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00:38:29,720 --> 00:38:35,960

to create weapons of mass destruction. But how will the fallout resulting from

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00:38:35,960 --> 00:38:39,000

blatant governmental misrepresentation affect us?

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00:38:41,880 --> 00:38:46,680

With the clearest historical example of where a policy of deceit in government leads,

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00:38:46,680 --> 00:38:53,480

the Soviet Empire lays prostrate before us, drowning in a sea of economic turmoil. Rather

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00:38:53,480 --> 00:38:58,440

than learn from these mistakes, the leadership of the United States government seems determined

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00:38:58,440 --> 00:39:06,600

to repeat the same grave errors. The creation of the International Space Station is a foreign aid

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00:39:06,600 --> 00:39:11,560

program for the Russians, a charitable contribution made by the American taxpayer

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00:39:11,560 --> 00:39:18,840

to the Russian space program, a division of the Russian military. The price tag is T minus

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00:39:18,840 --> 00:39:29,400

two billion dollars and counting. The judgment of those who would preserve a policy of deception

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00:39:29,400 --> 00:39:34,600

at the expense of the International Space Station, intended to be the greatest collaborative creation

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00:39:34,600 --> 00:39:40,920

since the pyramid, begs the question, why must the U.S. use the same deceitful methods employed

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00:39:40,920 --> 00:39:44,680

by the Soviets during the 1960s, 70s and 80s?

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00:39:48,600 --> 00:39:52,920

We're confronted once again with a larger and perhaps more oppressing question.

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00:39:52,920 --> 00:39:57,160

How do we respond when our government, be it local, state or federal,

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00:39:57,160 --> 00:40:01,480

turns a blind eye toward and even becomes a party to corruption?

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00:40:01,640 --> 00:40:08,920

Soviet science and Russian science is not going to go away.

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00:40:09,800 --> 00:40:15,240

Russians are going to be as oriented toward the basic and frontier sciences as they have

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00:40:15,240 --> 00:40:21,000

ever been, especially once their economy begins to recover. The question we have to ask is whether

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00:40:21,000 --> 00:40:27,960

or not there will be a political system in place, which is democratically oriented and which is open

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00:40:27,960 --> 00:40:34,040

to inputs and criticisms from the outside, that will ensure that we don't get into

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00:40:35,880 --> 00:40:41,480

the kind of systematic lying and cover-up that seems to have been the case in the 60s and 70s

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00:40:41,480 --> 00:40:47,640

and even into the late 80s. Is the program on the verge of extinction or collapse?

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00:40:49,800 --> 00:40:55,960

Probably is from our perspective, but from the Russian perspective, they will probably be able

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00:40:56,120 --> 00:41:06,280

to keep it going for enough years until somehow enough capital is infused into the country.

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00:41:06,280 --> 00:41:13,400

They're still printing money, they're still producing a lot of vodka. Some of it is of

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00:41:13,400 --> 00:41:20,840

international quality. They still export a lot of oil and gas to foreign countries,

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00:41:22,520 --> 00:41:32,680

but the fate of scientific community, of the research community is really very ugly.

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00:41:33,800 --> 00:41:42,760

So all this Russian legacy or Soviet legacy now is going to be kept in space museum,

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00:41:43,320 --> 00:41:48,840

here, and perhaps in a few scattered exhibitions in Russia.

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00:41:51,240 --> 00:41:55,240

Much like its Soviet counterpart did throughout the last four decades,

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00:41:55,240 --> 00:41:59,320

NASA is falling victim to the political machinations of its sponsoring government.

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00:42:00,120 --> 00:42:04,680

Created and maintained as a civilian agency dedicated to the science of space,

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00:42:05,320 --> 00:42:08,840

NASA has led our world in one of its greatest eras of achievement,

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00:42:09,480 --> 00:42:15,240

since its inception is performed most exceptionally when it has been left to do what it does best.

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00:42:15,880 --> 00:42:22,600

We must in the United States look at our national priorities first, but after we define national

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00:42:22,600 --> 00:42:30,440

priorities, we certainly can cooperate. And if we want our children to live in a world that doesn't

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00:42:30,440 --> 00:42:38,440

have the tremendous number of wars and killing that we've had in this last century, working

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00:42:38,440 --> 00:42:44,120

in space helps build bridges and break down lack of understanding among people.

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00:42:44,760 --> 00:42:49,320

And so long as we put our national priorities first, we'll have lots of room to work together.

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00:42:50,520 --> 00:42:56,600

If the U.S. government continues along its present course, using NASA as a go-between with the Russians,

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00:42:57,240 --> 00:43:01,080

one of America's greatest assets may be undermined by lies.

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00:43:02,360 --> 00:43:05,320

If history is any indication of where this path leads,

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00:43:06,120 --> 00:43:09,720

NASA could soon be following in the footsteps of its Russian counterpart,

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00:43:10,520 --> 00:43:16,440

broke, dishonored, distrusted, and ultimately dismembered.

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00:43:26,200 --> 00:43:31,640

Recounting the lessons of history from the long neglected stories of tragedy and intrigue,

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00:43:32,280 --> 00:43:38,040

these are the phenomenon archives, what you've never seen and what you're not supposed to know.

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00:43:39,320 --> 00:43:42,040

I'm Dean Stockwell. Thanks for tuning in.

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00:44:01,640 --> 00:44:13,160

Put it up for sale, like National Pride. When it goes down, put it up for sale.

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00:44:16,120 --> 00:44:23,880

Divide the republic, sell the remains. Politics dead, now money's the game.

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00:44:23,880 --> 00:44:30,520

They steal from the people with no threat of jail. Just find what is failing, put it up.

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00:44:31,240 --> 00:44:45,240

When it goes down, put it up for sale. Space program. When it goes down, put it up for sale.

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00:44:46,120 --> 00:44:55,320

Food and housing. When it goes down, put it up for sale. Nuclear bombs.

384

00:44:55,320 --> 00:45:10,120

When it goes down, put it up for sale. Weapon technology. When it goes down, put it up for sale.