

# SPACE MAN NOT TROUBLED BY WEIGHTLESSNESS

## "ATE AND DRANK: EVERYTHING LIKE ON EARTH"

MOSCOW, APRIL 13

Major Yuri Gagarin described today how it felt to be the first man in space. "Everything was easier to perform . . . legs and arms weighed nothing", he told a Soviet reporter.

Objects swam about in the cabin and he sat suspended above his chair in mid-air, gazing out in admiration at the beauty of earth floating in a black sky. "I ate and drank, and everything was like on earth", he said.

Of his thoughts in space he said: "All my thoughts and feelings were directed to the fulfilment of the programme of the flight. I wanted to carry out all the tasks that I had to do as well as I possibly could. There was a great deal of work. The entire flight meant work."

### NOT LONELY

Major Gagarin said he had no feeling of loneliness in space. "I knew well that my friends, the whole Soviet Union, were following my space flight. I was sure that the party and Government were always ready to help me if I found myself in difficulties."

Describing what he saw from the spaceship, Major Gagarin said: "The day side of the earth was clearly visible. The coasts of continents, islands, big rivers, big surfaces of water and structural features were clearly distinguishable."

Flying over Soviet territory he could see distinctly the big squares of collective farm fields and it was possible to distinguish which was ploughed land and which was meadows.

### EARTH'S CURVE

"During the flight I saw for the first time with my own eyes the earth's spherical shape. You can see its curvature when looking to the horizon. I must say that the view of the horizon is unique and very beautiful.

"It is possible to see the remarkably colourful change from the light surface of the earth to the completely black sky in which one can see the stars. This dividing line is very thin, just like a belt of film surrounding the earth's sphere. It is of a delicate blue colour. And this transition from the blue to the dark is very gradual and lovely. When I emerged from the shadow of the earth, the horizon looked different. There was a bright orange strip along it, which again passed into a blue hue and once again into a dense black colour."

"I did not see the moon. In space the sun is shining tens of times brighter than on earth. Stars are very well seen. They are bright and distinct. The whole picture of the sky is more contrasted than when it

which is dealing with the conquest of cosmic space.

"I should like to visit Venus, to see what there is beneath her clouds, to see Mars and to ascertain myself whether there are canals there. The moon is not so remote a neighbour. I think that we shall not have to wait too long to fly towards and to the moon."

He could have spent much longer in the spaceship, but the duration of the flight had been fixed in advance. He added that he was "full of joy" when he touched the earth. "Above all, I am glad because I have successfully carried out my task. When I was coming down, I sang the song 'The homeland hears, the homeland knows' . . ."

### FLIGHT DEDICATED

Major Gagarin said that he was dedicating his flight to the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, to the Soviet Government, to the 22nd Party Congress, and to the whole people who were marching in the vanguard of mankind and building a new society.

Of the United States intention to send a man into space, he said: "We shall welcome the successes of the American cosmonauts when they have flown. There is room in space for everybody. The American cosmonauts will have to catch up with us. We shall welcome their successes, but we shall try to be always ahead."

Moscow is preparing a hero's welcome tomorrow for the first man in space. All the way from Vnukovo airport to Red Square, where he is to be met by the Soviet Government with Mr. Khrushchev at their head, buildings were being hung today with red banners and flags and the portraits of the Soviet leaders.

### KREMLIN RECEPTION

A big Kremlin reception is planned for the evening and the Minister of Defence has ordered a 20-gun salute to be fired in Moscow and other major cities of the Soviet Union.

A long line of flag posts has been hastily erected in Red Square and women roadworkers have been painting red marker lines for the massive parade of homage to the Soviet cosmonaut.

Circus entertainers, variety artists, actors, orchestras and mobile cinemas will be playing in 30 of Moscow's big squares from 6 p.m. tomorrow in what has been termed here a "people's festival".

In Red Square a large banner carries the slogan "Honour and glory to Comrade Yuri Alexeivich, pioneer con-

ht into space.

PORTS

DS NO

nsion, withstands  
t home for protec-  
lacmillan sees the  
areas of the world  
may be the next—  
lled towards trade  
tractive for techni-  
ing the mistake of  
iff walls. And the  
gainst protectionist  
ng economy that  
edless.

ATTERNS

ent and Mr. Mac-  
-seeing exchanges  
the older manu-  
orting countries  
under-developed  
Anglo-American  
ces. will soon be  
markets and look-