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cc: NRC/JPL.

GNR006A

RR ACSW ASFA DSDF DSDN GFDA GSRM GTWL HMSC

DE ANBE 003A

30/0157Z

FM ALL STATION STAFF/HONEYSUCKLE CREEK TRACKING STATION

TO -

INFO ACSW/J WARTH

ANRC/R LESLIE

ASFA/C QUIGGIN

DSDF/STADIR/OPS/TDA REPS

DSDN/STADIR/OPS

GFDA/T ROBERTS

GSRM/E SMILEY/C TAYLOR/W WOOD/R HORNSTEIN

GSTS/CODE 800 R SADE/W LAFLEUR/CODE 810 R OWEN/CODE 812 D DALTON/

CODE 850 D SPINTMAN

GTWL/CODE 861.2 M STEVENS/CODE 862.3 R STANLEY

HMSC/C KRAFT/E FENDELL/L ARMSTRONG

JGLD/C KOSCIELSKI

JHIL/M WYATT

JJPL/P LYMAN/G REED/R K MALLIS/R LATHAM/J K HEFTMAN

JOCC/OPS CHS/TRK CHS

LRDO/BAUTISTA

LRID/J URECH

SUBJ: HONEYSUCKLE CREEK (DSS 44) STATION SHUTDOWN

NEARLY 16 YEARS IS A VERY SHORT PERIOD IN HISTORICAL TERMS, BUT QUITE A LARGE SLICE OF THE SHORT HISTORY OF SPACEFLIGHT.

MANY OF US HAVE BEEN AT HONEYSUCKLE FOR MOST OF THAT PERIOD, AND ARE PROUD THAT WE HAVE BEEN INVOLVED IN A SMALL WAY WITH SOME OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND EXCITING EVENTS IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND.

WE COULD QUOTE STATISTICS, BUT PERHAPS JUST A FEW OF THE HIGHLIGHTS MIGHT ILLUSTRATE WHAT WE WILL MISS.

THE FIRST ORBIT OF A MANNED SPACECRAFT AROUND THE MOON (APOLLO 8).

MAN'S FIRST STEPS ON THE LUNAR SURFACE (APOLLO 11).

THE ACTIVATION OF THE FIRST VEHICLE ON THE MOON (APOLLO 15), AND ALL THE ASSOCIATED SCIENTIFIC EXPLORATIONS.

THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL SUPPORT OF THE VERY COMPLEX SKYLAB MISSIONS.

SINCE 1975 WE HAVE BEEN LUCKY TO HAVE JOINED THE DEEP SPACE NET AT A TIME WHEN VIKING LANDED ON MARS, THE VOYAGER AND PIONEER SPACECRAFT ARE EXPLORING THE OUTER PLANETS, AND TO HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO THESE PROJECTS ALSO.

WE HAVE TRIED TO ACT IN A RESPONSIBLE AND PROFESSIONAL WAY, AND AT TIMES WE MAY HAVE SEEMED TO DISPLAY A TYPICALLY AUSTRALIAN PRAGMATISM IN OUR APPROACH. IN FACT THE MAJORITY OF US ARE IDEALISTS ON THE SUBJECT OF SPACE, AND HATE TO THINK THAT AMERICA MAY BE TURNING HER BACK ON EXPLORATION, FOR EVEN A LIMITED PERIOD.

THOSE OF US WHO ARE LEAVING THE INDUSTRY SEND BEST WISHES FOR THE FUTURE TO OUR FRIENDS AT JPL, GODDARD, HOUSTON AND THE OTHER TRACKING STATIONS, PARTICULARLY TO THOSE WHO ARE ALSO LEAVING FROM DSS 11 AND 62. IT'S BEEN GOOD WORKING WITH YOU.

30/0200Z NOV 81 ANBE