

16 November 1972

Dear Mr. Fletcher:

Thank you very much for your kind invitation to attend the launch of Apollo 17. Unfortunately, it will be impossible for me to be absent from Washington on that day. As much as I would like to go, I deeply regret having to miss this historic event. It was a wonderful and thrilling experience to be present at the launch of Apollo 16.

With much appreciation and every good wish for continued success,

Faithfully,

Vernon A. Walters
Lieutenant General, USA

Honorable James C. Fletcher
Administrator
National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Washington, D. C. 20546

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Gen Walters:
Per Elizabeth,



Mr. Helms prefers that you not go because of the public nature of the function and possibility of being photographed together. Does not mind if you both sneak out of town going in different directions, but does not think it would look right to have you both show up at the same place in this case.

ILLEGIB

