National Aeronautics and
Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Greenbelt, MD 20771

September 28, 2004

Reply to Attn of: 140

TO: Distribution

FROM: 100/Director

SUBJECT: Blanket Determination Regarding Attendance at the 23rd Annual Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) Reception in Greenbelt, Maryland on October 21, 2004

On October 21, 2004, the National Space Club will host the 23rd Annual GSFC Reception at the GSFC Visitor Center in Greenbelt, Maryland. This year's reception will honor Goddard's Aura Mission. I have determined it is in the best interest of the Government for those NASA employees who are invited to this reception to attend in their official capacities and as representatives of NASA.

The National Space Club was founded in 1957 to stimulate the exchange of ideas and information about rocketry and astronautics and to promote the recognition of America's achievements in aerospace. The Club is a nonprofit corporation composed of representatives of industry, government, educational institutions, and private individuals. The GSFC Reception will be widely attended by officials from NASA and aerospace companies. The estimated cost of the reception, which includes all food and beverages, is $86.00 per person, and 250-300 people have been invited to attend. I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). Consequently, I conclude that NASA's interest in its employees attending this events outweighs any concerns that free attendance may, or may appear to, improperly influence any NASA employees in the performance of their official duties.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses may attend the 23rd Annual GSFC Reception without charge.

Edward J. Weiler