

involved and the total gains to be realized in this next step toward a manned lunar landing."

"We will fly the most advanced mission for which we are prepared that does not unduly risk the safety of the crew," Mr. Paine said.

As a result of the successful 11-day earth orbit flight of Apollo 7, NASA is now considering these more ambitious exercises for Apollo 8 in December.

¶An earth orbit flight extending 4,000 or so miles into space.

¶A trip around the moon and back.

¶A mission involving about 10 revolutions around the moon before the return home.

The associate NASA administrator for manned flight, George E. Mueller, and Lieut. Gen. Samuel C. Phillips, Apollo program director, listed these pre-decision steps:

¶Analysis of the Apollo 7 results to see whether any major spacecraft changes are needed.

¶Determination that faults observed in an unmanned Saturn 5 flight last spring have been corrected by modifications made since then.

¶Certification that the ground-tested Apollo 8 spacecraft command and service units are "ready for lunar flight."

¶Checkout and delivery to Cape Kennedy, Fla., of computer flight programs for a moon mission.

¶Rehearsal of spacecraft operations by means of computer simulation of ground control systems.

They are also considering certification of subsystems on the spacecraft and the readiness of the three-stage Saturn 5 launching vehicle.

Decision Date on Apollo 8

WASHINGTON, Oct. 28 (UPI)

—The National Aeronautics and Space Administration said today that it will decide in the week of Nov. 10 whether to send Apollo astronauts around the moon in December as the next step toward a manned lunar landing scheduled for 1969.

The space agency outlined six procedures that must be carried out before a decision can be made on the Apollo 8 flight of Col. Frank Borman of the Air Force, Capt. James A. Lovell Jr. of the Navy and Maj. William A. Anders of the Air Force. This flight will be the first manned test of the big Saturn 5 moon booster.

NASA's acting chief, Thomas O. Paine, said the decision would hinge on "a thorough assessment of the total risks