In article <1993Apr06.020021.186145@zeus.calpoly.edu> jgreen@trumpet.calpoly.edu (James Thomas Green) writes:

>Suppose the Soviets had managed to get their moon rocket working

>and had made it first. They could have beaten us if either:

>* Their rocket hadn't blown up on the pad thus setting them back,

>and/or

>* A Saturn V went boom.

The Apollo fire was harsh, A Saturn V explosion would have been

hurtful but The Soviets winning would have been crushing. That could have

been *the* technological turning point for the US turning us

from Today's "We can do anything, we're *the* Super Power" to a much more

reserved attitude like the Soviet Program today.

Kennedy was gone by 68\69, the war was still on is the east, I think

the program would have stalled badly and the goal of the moon

by 70 would have been dead with Nasa trying to figure were they went wrong.

>If they had beaten us, I speculate that the US would have gone

>head and done some landings, but we also would have been more

>determined to set up a base (both in Earth Orbit and on the

>Moon). Whether or not we would be on Mars by now would depend

>upon whether the Soviets tried to go. Setting up a lunar base

>would have stretched the budgets of both nations and I think

>that the military value of a lunar base would outweigh the value

>of going to Mars (at least in the short run). Thus we would

>have concentrated on the moon.

I speulate that:

+The Saturn program would have been pushed into

the 70s with cost over runs that would just be too evil.

Nixon still wins.

+The Shuttle was never proposed and Skylab never built.

+By 73 the program stalled yet again under the fuel crisis.

+A string of small launches mark the mid seventies.

+By 76 the goal of a US man on the moon is dead and the US space program

drifts till the present day.

>/~~~(-: James T. Green :-)~~~~(-: jgreen@oboe.calpoly.edu :-)~~~\

>| "I believe that this nation should commit itself to achieving|

>| the goal, before this decade is out, of landing a man on the |

>| Moon and returning him safely to the Earth." |

>| <John F. Kennedy; May 25, 1961> |