~~Haguirney~~ Jim Wolf For STAR USS

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
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L U N A - 12

TRANSMITS PHOTOGRAPHS

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TRANSMITS PHOTOGRAPHS

(TASS COMMUNIQUE)

From
Newspaper "PRAVDA"
No.303 (17620)
MOSCOW, Sunday 30 Oct.1966

The automatic station "LUNA-12", placed into AMS orbit on 25 October 1966, pursues its flight along a selenocentrical orbit.

According to the scheduled program of scientific investigations the automatic station "LUNA-12" performed from its orbit the photographing of separate areas of the surface of the Moon with the aid of a special photo-television apparatus.

The station "LUNA-12" pursues its investigation of the near-lunar space.

According to data of trajectory measurements the parameters of station's near-lunar orbit for 29 October are as follows· minimum range from the surface of the Moon (in periselion) near 100 km; maximum range from the lunar surface (in aposelion) near 1740 kilometers; period of revolution around the Moon 3hrs 25 min.

By 29 October 25 radiocommunication sessions were conducted with "LUNA-12". The telemetric information arriving from the station confirms its normal operation. Subsequent radiocommunication sessions with LUNA-12 relative to photograph transmission together with the results of scientific investigations and trajectory measurements will be conducted in accord with a preassigned program.

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* "LUNA-12" PEREDAYET SNIMKI

The photographs, shown in the next two pages, were obtained from the altitude near 100 km from the Moon's surface. They represent an area of Mare Imbrium. The total area shown on each photograph is of the order of 50 square kilometers.

It is clearly seen that the area photographed corresponds to a comparatively smooth region, with a small number of craters. Nearly all of them are outlined by illuminated inner slopes. Contrary to standard major craters walls are absent in them. Well outlined are two groups of overlapping craters, located in the upper right-hand part of the first photograph (Plate 1). This area is located nearer to the terminator (which is the boundary between night and day on the Moon).

The region of the second photograph (Plate 2) is situated farther from the terminator. The character of the surface on the second photograph is just as smooth; however, the density of craters is here substantially higher.

A great number of clear spots constitute agglomerations of tiny craterlets, as a rule also devoid of walls.

It should be stressed that the details seen on the photos are hundred times tinier by comparison with the best photographs of ground observatories.

By the large-scale photographs, of which we now dispose, it is possible to further refine the structure of the surface and make apparent scores of new objects. Now that the artificial satellites of the Moon opened the path for new broad possibilities of investigation, new secrets of the antique SELENE will be uncovered. Orbiting around it at present are four proper satellites, of which three are Soviet.

*** E N D ***

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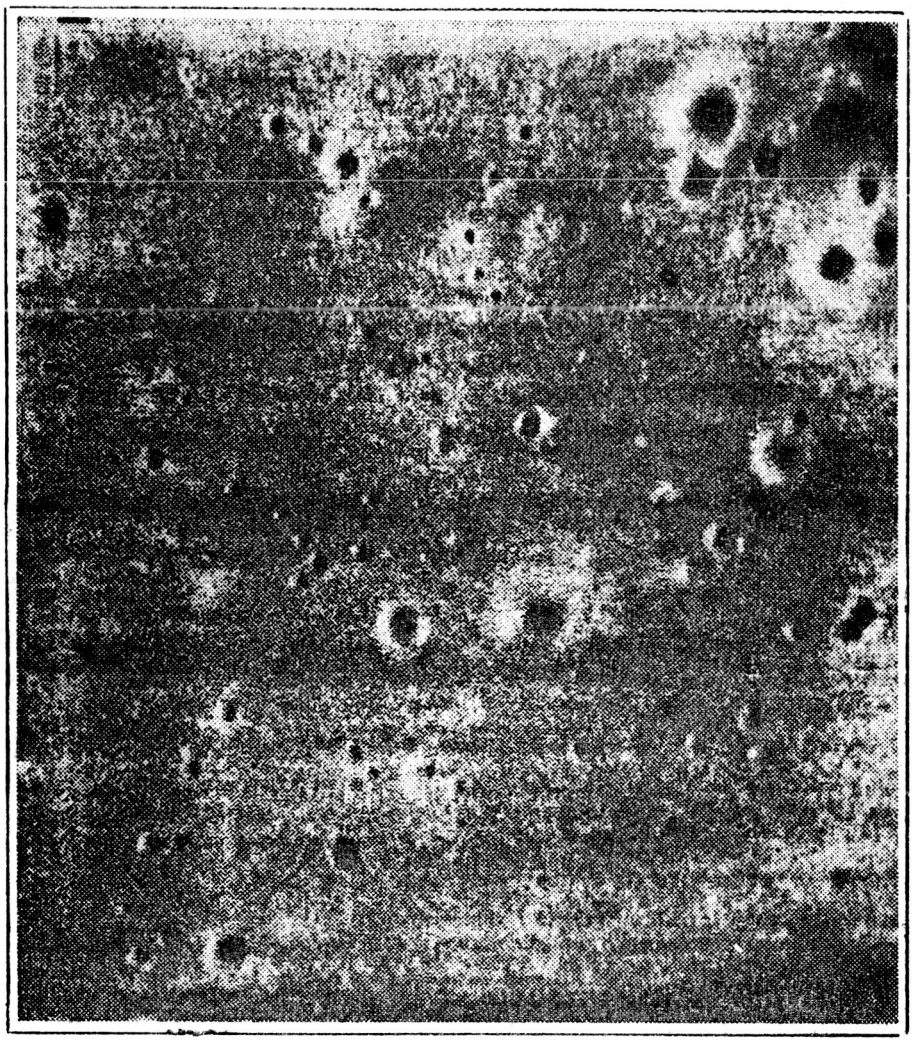
Translated by
ANDRE L. BRICHANT

3 November 1966



Photograph 1

Note in the upper righ-hand part of the photograph the two groups of overlapping craters. These are is located nearer to the terminator

Photograph 2

The character of the surface is here as smooth as in the Photo 1, but the crater density here is significantly higher. Moreover, this area is farther from the terminator.

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