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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE EARTH FROM AIS "ZOND-5"

from
"PRAVDA"
26 October 1968

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29 OCTOBER 1968

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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE EARTH FROM AIS "ZOND-5"

From Newspaper "PRAVDA"
26 October 1968.

Newspaper Column

One of the problems of the investigation program of the spacecraft "ZOND-5", was photographing the Earth from the outer space in the final portion of the trajectory. As a result a series of pictures were obtained.

The photograph which is being published this day, represents the image of the Earth, received on 21 September 1968, at 1208 hours Moscow time from the distance of about 90,000 kilometers. The illuminated part of the Earth's surface bounded by meridians of 50° western and 60° the eastern longitude is clearly shown in the attached photograph. The terminator passes along about the 50° meridian of western longitude. Well defined in this picture are the outlines of the continents and water surfaces that are not hidden by cloudiness: the regions of Mediterranean, Black, Caspian and Aral seas, Arabian Peninsular, Iranian Highlands and the greater part of Africa. On African territory, it is easy to identify the valleys of the rivers Nile, Limpopo, Zambezi as well as the lakes Nyasa and Chad. In the basin of the Mediterranean Sea, one may see the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal and the islands.

A considerable part of the Earth's surface is hidden by cloudiness. In northern region of the Atlantic Ocean and Northern Europe, are two well visible cyclonic cloud systems. Over Central Europe and neighboring regions of the Atlantic Ocean and of USSR there is a continuous strato-cumulus cloudiness. Over Central Africa and the central part of the Atlantic Ocean broken and partly compact cumulus, high-cumulus and cirro-cumulus clouds are observed.

Above the Atlantic Ocean, in the region bordering South-Western Africa are undulated strato-cumulus clouds. In the region between Central Europe and Central Africa there is a small cloudiness of various types.

In the southern region of the Atlantic and Indian Oceans, bordering the Antarctic there are seen continuous stratus clouds.

This direct photographing of the Earth from great altitudes, enables us to obtain a series of important scientific meteorological data.

The pictures of Earth from outer space offer a possibility to study the reflective capacity of the terrestrial surface. It is well known, that the reflection of rays from the surface of any solid matter, takes place differently and the character of this reflection could disclose much about

the nature of the object under the investigation. The determination of the reflection factors of the continents, oceans, seas, lakes, forest-regions etc., offers a rich material for the purpose of deciphering the objects, not only of the Earth but also of other planets.

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PHOTOGRAPH OF THE EARTH

taken from the automatic interplanetary station "ZOND-5" on
21 September 1968 at 1208 hours Moscow Time from a distance
of 90000 km