National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Contract No.NAS-5-12487

ST—PR—PS—10837

F I N I S H A F T E R F I N I S H

SECOND FINI3H ON VENUS

AN OUTSTANDING EXPERIMENT NOW COMPLETED

(Communique Tass)

21 MAY 1969

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Soviet science achieved a new success. One day after the landing of AIS "VENERA-5", AIS "VENERA-6" also completed a several months' flight along the course Earth-Venus.

The station entered the planet's atmosphere at a distance of about 300 kilometers from the place of entry of "VENERA-5". The descending apparatus smoothly came down in the atmosphere during 51 minutes. During descent measurements of Venus' atmosphere characteristics were conducted and transmitted to the Control Center of Remote Cosmic Communication.

Both "VENERA-5" and "VENERA-6" delivered pennants with bas-relief of Lenin and the Soviet coat of arms [these were shown in our preceding ST-PR-LS-10836].

The study program of planet Venus is conducted in USSR in sequence and with success, using automatic space probes.

This study of planet Venus by automatic probes was first begun in USSR in 1961 with the launching of AIS "VENERA-1". On 27 February 1966 "VENERA-2" flew past near Venus, while on 1 March of the same year "VENERA-3" was first to hit this planet's surface, delivering a pennant. On 18 October 1967, the Soviet science and technology won a new outstanding victory. For the first time in history an automatic interplanetary station, "VENERA-4" effected a soft descent in the atmosphere of Venus, measuring its parameters. Unique scientific data were obtained on the physical characterestics of the planet.

AIS "VENERA-5" and "VENERA-6" pursued the study of planet Venus, having enriched the science with important scientific data, and have broadened our knowledge on Venus, thus making an outstanding contribution to science of the Universe. During these flights, having lasted more than four months, "VENERA-5" and "VENERA-6" conducted important investigations of physical processes taking place in interplanetary space. This was achieved thanks to constant successful communication with the stations, of which 73 with "VENERA-5" and 63 with "-6".

The onboard instrumentation functioned to perfection during the entire flights. The required thermal conditions in station's compartments was assured alongside with a constant orientation of solar batteries, while during sessions of radiocommunication the orientation of parabolic pencil-beam antennas at the Earth was strictly maintained. All this is evidence of the high scientific and technological level of automatic stations.

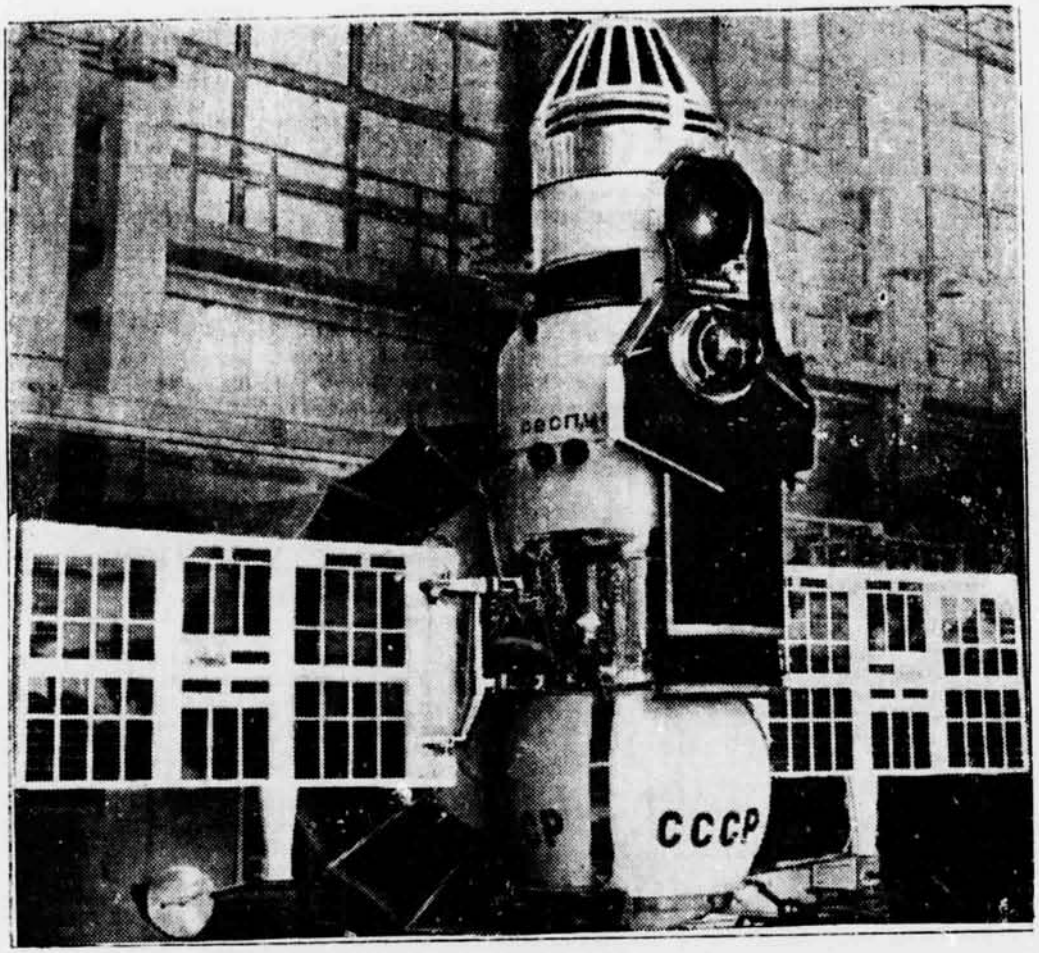

Fig.1

This is the way one of the two "sister-crafts'looked prior to launch (VENERA-5 AND -6)

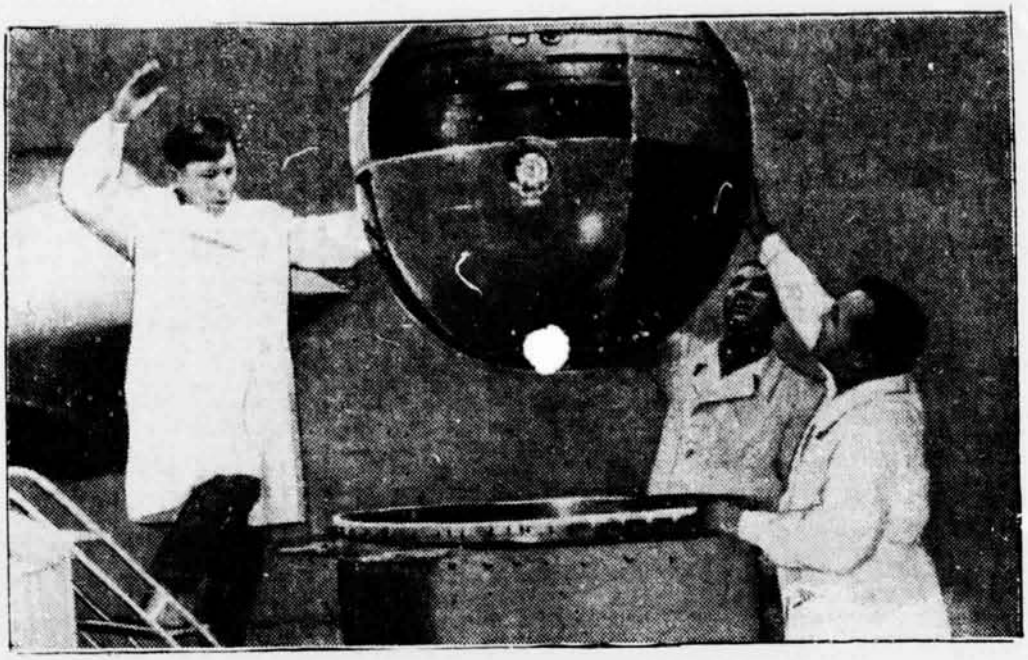

Fig.2

Testing the descending capsule of the two VENERA probes

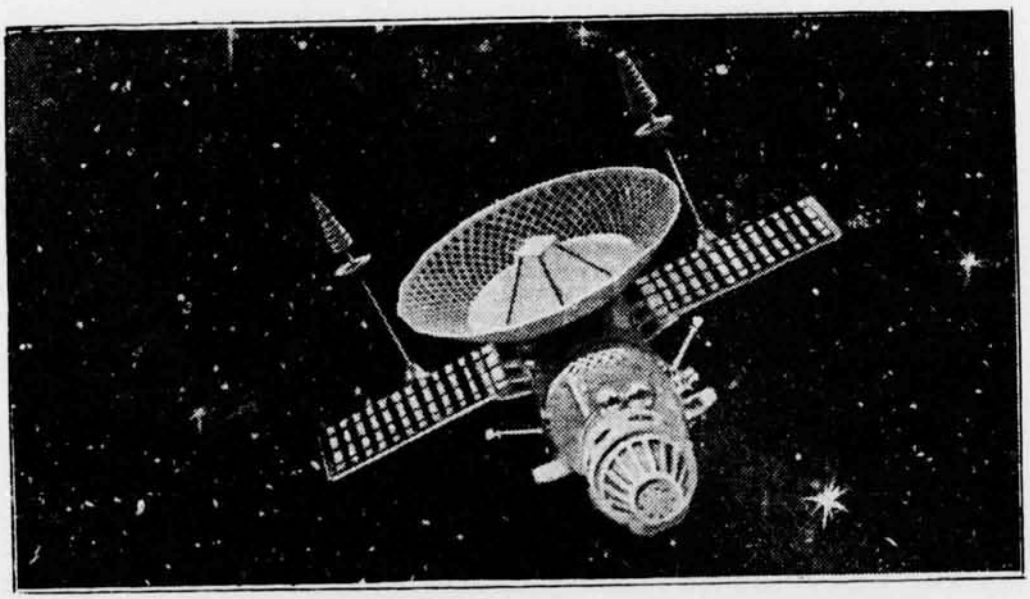

Fig.3

DUMMY OF VENERA-TYPE PROBES

The reliable operation of all onboard systems of the stations has assured the fulfillment of the assigned program of flights to Venus with smooth descent in the atmosphere of the planet.

As was foreseen, the descending capsules of both stations hit the night side of the planet. In the course of descent the scientific instrumentation placed on board of both devices measured the chemical composition, density, temperature of Venus' atmosphere. For the first time in the world were the scientific investigations of Venus'atmosphere actually conducted simultaneously in two of its regions.

The creation and the flights of AIS "VENERA-5" and "VENERA-6" clearly demonstrates the high perfection of Soviet space science and technology, the high talent of its scientists, engineers, constructors and workers. This new outstanding success of Soviet cosmonautics, achieved on the eve of the 100th birthday of V. I. LENIN, is a remarkable evidence of the scientific and technological progress of the Soviet country, of the creative enthusiasm of its people and of worthy contribution to mastering of outer space.

Contract No.NAS-5-12487
VOLT INFORMATION SCIENCES, INC.
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Translated by ANDRE L. BRICHANT
on 21 May 1969
from Newspaper "PRAVDA" No.138
of 18 May 1969