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TITLE Remote Sensing Geophysics from Skylab

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INVESTIGATION NO.: 487

PERIOD COVERED: August 1974

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PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Kenneth Watson  
U.S. Geological Survey  
Denver, Colorado 80225

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## Status during August

1. A field trip to southern California was postponed due to intermittently cloudy weather. It is now planned to return to the Twentynine Palms range in October when the desert temperatures are cooler and the weather pattern is more stable.

2. Continued analysis of the rocks collected in May show that many (but not all) of the samples exhibit the higher reflectance on cut surfaces than on weathered surfaces. The implications of this observation are quite exciting. Firstly it means that the individual rocks may contain the anomaly causing materials throughout, and that the lower reflectivity on the surface is due to a leaching of these materials. Secondly, as a consequence of this weathering process, it may be that the relative age of rocks, showing the anomaly, can be established. If this is substantiated then a cheaper and more rapid technique than radioactive dating can be used in the stratigraphic analysis of these rocks.