



U.S. Near Launch Date For Weather Satellite

WASHINGTON, March 30 (AP) — An attempt to launch America's first big league weather satellite may be made any day now—at a time when the Russians are also voicing interest in employing satellites to help make long range weather forecasts.

The United States is reportedly set to try to put a 270-pound meteorological satellite into a 400-500 mile orbit around the earth.

It would be equipped with television cameras to relay pictures back to earth of the cloud cover surrounding the planet.

SIGNIFICANCE

This would be the most significant step yet in a program aimed at eventually developing a system of satellites that would act as weather eyes in the sky.

The satellite, to be launched by a Thor-Able rocket, will be called Tiros I.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration has said only that the launching attempt would be made during the three-month period beginning April 1.

There have been reliable reports that it might take place by the end of this month or in the first days of April.

N.A.S.A. scientists have said that while it is known the Russians have developed a working meteorological sounding rocket—or one that does not orbit — it is not known what they may be doing about a satellite system.

Today, however, in an article translated by the U. S. Commerce Department, a Russian military officer declared the artificial earth satellites "offer great pros-

pects" for making long-range weather forecasts.

"With the assistance of television sets on satellites it will be possible to get a picture of the location and movement of cloud systems over the entire globe," declared Colonel N. Barbarov in an article published originally in "Sovietskaya Aviat-siya."

RUSSIA

Without saying whether Russia has immediate plans to launch its first satellite of this kind, Barbarov declared:

"We are on the threshold of great new developments in meteorology.

"Artificial satellites, used jointly with computers, will make possible a more qualitative solution of the problem of weather prediction."



U.H. Has Role In Tiros Project

The University of Hawaii recently was awarded a \$28,800 Air Force contract for 18 months work on Tiros.

Weather Bureau personnel also will work on the project.

Information transmitted by the satellite will be rushed to Oahu for analysis by university and Weather Bureau scientists.

Meteorologists hope the information will enable them to make more accurate weather forecasts.

It also is hoped the artificial moon will supply data about weather between Hawaii and the equator and Hawaii and the Panama Canal.

Little meteorological information currently is available from these areas.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology

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