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Tiros Relays Pictures of Entire World

America's weather-eye satellite—racing along in a nearly perfect global orbit—yesterday radioed back pictures of cloud formations from all parts of the world.

Many of the pictures taken by the two cameras of the satellite—Tiros I—still are stored on tape awaiting signals from earth to send them back to receiving stations. The National Aeronautics and Space Administration reported.

Four transmissions were triggered yesterday morning by the Army Signal Corps laboratory. They brought back to earth pictures of cloud covers over the general area of the Mediterranean Sea.

NASA late yesterday released copies of pictures taken by Tiros' "high resolution" camera at 2 p.m. Friday from 450 miles above the Eastern Coast of the United States.

Greater Detail Furnished

The narrow-angle camera is designed to permit study of cloud structures in greater detail than is possible with Tiros' wide-angle camera.

Detail in the latest pictures was about 10 times greater than in the first set made public. The pictures were relayed from the satellite to the receiving station at Fort Monmouth, N. J., and showed two different kinds of clouds. The earth below them showed mostly as a dark mass.

The civilian space agency reported that all instruments, including cameras, tape recorders and other devices, were working perfectly.

As an example of the weather-eye's speed, 10 minutes after crossing the Great Lakes area it was high in the sky above the South Atlantic. By last midnight it was in its 24th global orbit.

62 to 74 Degrees Inside

The temperature inside the satellite was 62 degrees, climbing to 74 degrees when receiving stations triggered it to relay photos.

Snapping its pictures from 450 miles up, Tiros may be the forerunner of a system that could forecast major storms all over the world. It was fired into orbit Friday morning from Cape Canaveral, Fla.

Air Force officials were inclined to doubt that Tiros, at least in its initial form, would have any imediate military value except for meteorological use.

But its success in sending back broad-scale pictures of land and sea areas and vast cloud formations can contribute to data being compiled for the Air Force project "Samos."

Military Program

The Samos project has replaced the original Sentry project in the military's space program. It is intended eventually to enable the United States to maintain a constant reconnaissance of much of the surface of the globe—in detail which would show airfields, missile launching sites, fleet movements and military construction.

To do this, television cameras capable of much more detailed coverage than those used in the Tiros satellite would be needed.

One of the two cameras aboard Tiros is photographing a square area 800 miles on a side, or 640,000 square miles.

THE HEAT

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology

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