

Weather Eye Still On Job

By JAMES CUNNINGHAM

The Tiros "weather-eye" satellite shows every promise of carrying on her globe-girdling photography mission for another 45 days or more.

This is the report of David S. Johnson, who has served at the Kaena Point Tracking Station as Senior Scientist on the Tiros project for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

KAENA POINT and Ft. Monmouth, N.J., are the only stations receiving weather-scapes from the orbiting satellite.

The solar batteries powering Tiros I's cameras, recorders and communications equipment are still cycling properly and instruments aboard the 450-mile-high satel-

lite are functioning well, he said.

Johnson told a luncheon meeting of the Engineering Association of Hawaii that Tiros I gives every indication of living out the "useful life" of three months, built into it by the designers.

Tiros was launched April 1.

"THE BATTERIES might even last longer," he said. "We just don't know."

The satellite itself, he said, is in such a perfect orbit—the most perfect achieved so far—that it may stay up for 50 years. After the batteries go dead, however, the 270-pound orb will be a mere silent speck rotating around the earth.

Johnson, a U.S. Weather Bureau scientist on loan to NASA, reported that valuable

meteorological discoveries are expected from the pictures flashed back from Tiros so far.

"BUT WE HAVE only just started looking at those pictures," he said. "It will be at least six months before we can come up with any solid conclusions."

Johnson, who spoke as Tiros made its 631st pass over Hawaii at noon, completed his tour at Kaena about 3:30 a.m. yesterday.

He turned NASA representation at the tracking station over to John Maskasky of the Army Signal Corps and plans to return to Washington May 20.

The one-time Hawaiian Pineapple Institute and Hawaiian Sugar Planters' Association meteorologist said his departure does not mean that Tiros

has outlived its usefulness.

"Tiros will go right on taking pictures and sending them back to Kaena Point," he said. "And they will be just as valuable as the first ones."

Hilo Graduates To Hold Reunion

Hilo High School graduates of the class of 1947 will have a reunion at the Nuuanu Onsen Tea House on June 4, based on a "This is Your Life" theme, Program Chairman Hardy Hutchinson said yesterday.

The reunion will begin at 7 p.m. Tickets are available by calling Elsie Nakasone, 451-365; Evelyn Chung, 522-974; Toshie Kamasaki, 968-392, or Violet Fujikami, 835-881.

National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology

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