

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

April 1, 1985

I am pleased to send greetings to all those gathered to mark the 25th anniversary of weather satellites and especially to those receiving awards this evening.

The United States has been a forerunner in using satellite remote sensing to assist in weather prediction, a technology it has shared with other nations. Although weather forecasters and television viewers alike take these images from space for granted, it was only 25 years ago that satellites first enabled us to step back far enough to see the entire world and its swirling weather systems.

The world's first television infra-red observation satellite "TIROS-1" was launched from Cape Canaveral on April 1, 1960. Five hours later President Eisenhower was looking at a cloud picture from space. On May 25, 1961 in a special message to a joint session of Congress on the nation's space program, President Kennedy requested funds to develop a national operational meteorological satellite system. Thanks to continuing strong leadership and support of the Congress, in cooperation with the Executive Branch, today we have such a system.

But this system would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of those early pioneers in remote weather sensing, some of whom you honor tonight. Nancy joins me in sending best wishes to the awardees and to everyone present at the ceremony this evening.

Ronald Reagan

# **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration TIROS Satellites and Satellite Meteorology**

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