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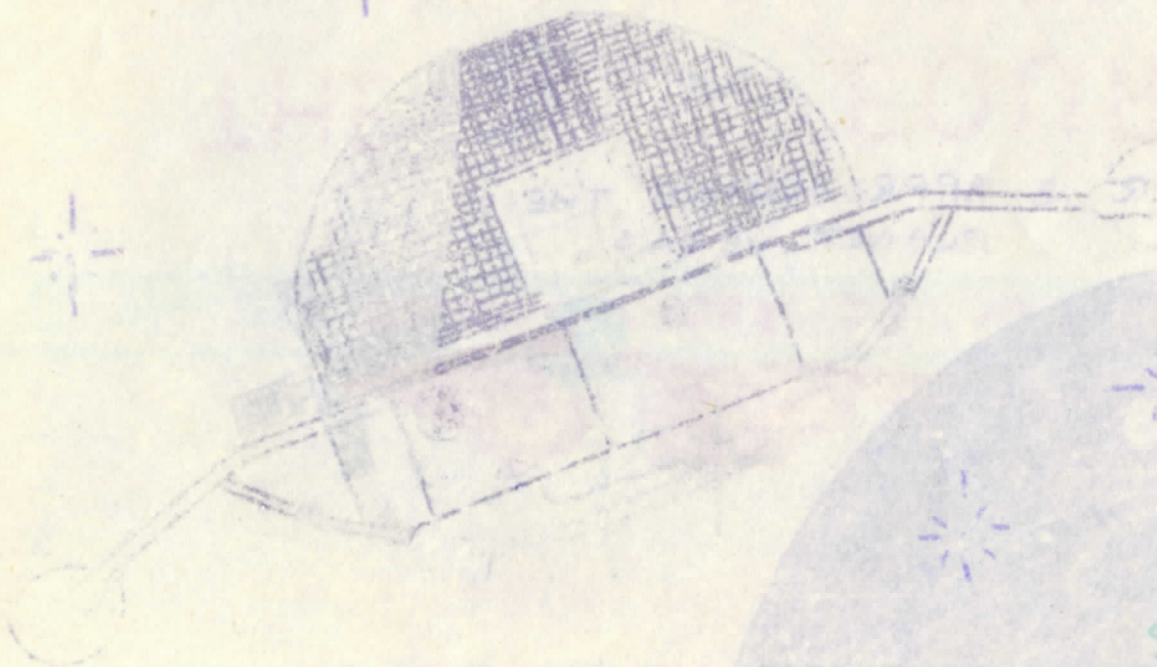
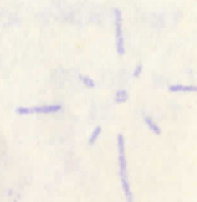
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THE FOURTH ORBITING SOLAR OBSERVATORY



SAFELY
10/20/67

MARINER 5 APPROACHING THE
PLANET VENUS



THE ORBITING SOLAR OBSERVATORY

OBSERVATORY

by Philip Kemp

The weight of the Orbiting Solar Observatory (OSO) depends upon its particular mission. It may vary from 400 to 600 pounds.

The OSO spacecraft is noted for its ability to keep stationary for long periods of time in space. Since the spacecraft can stay aimed at the Sun for so long, it can gather a great deal of information.

The OSO spacecraft consists of two main sections: the platform and the sail. The platform or drum of the OSO is the heaviest part. This section contains batteries, radio equipment, experiments, and position control equipment. A shaft holds the sail onto the OSO's drum section. This semi-circular section is on one side covered with solar cells to power the spacecraft. The other side has Sun sensing equipment. While the third stage of the launch vehicle (Douglas Delta) is pushing the spacecraft into orbit it spins very rapidly. This spinning is to keep the spacecraft on course. After orbital insertion, the three arms extend. At the end of each arm there is a small tank of high-pressure nitrogen. The nozzles on these tanks let the nitrogen escape and slow the spin to about the speed of a 33 1/3 rpm phonograph record.

The Sun sensors start looking for the Sun. After the Sun is located, a nitrogen jet in the drum move the craft until it is aimed at the Sun. A motor then starts the sail rotating at the same speed in the other direction. This makes the sail stand still. The drum is still spinning at 30 revolutions per minute to stabilize the craft.

FACTS ABOUT THE

OSO'S ALREADY LAUNCHED

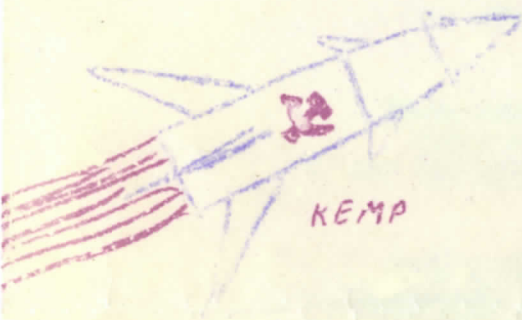
OSO I was launched March 7, 1962. OSO I was operational for 77 days. It transmitted more than 1000 hours' data. It had an orbit of about 350 miles above the earth.

OSO II was launched from Cape Kennedy on February 3, 1965. It performed many of the same experiments that OSO I did.

OSO 4 was launched from Cape Kennedy on October 18, 1967 to make test on the Sun's radiation. It is still working properly. This spacecraft has nine experiments to do.

THE END

SOVIET VENUS PROBES



LAUNCH VEHICLE FOR
"VENUS I" AS PICTURED
ON SOVIET STAMP

Contact with VENUS I was lost
soon after launch.

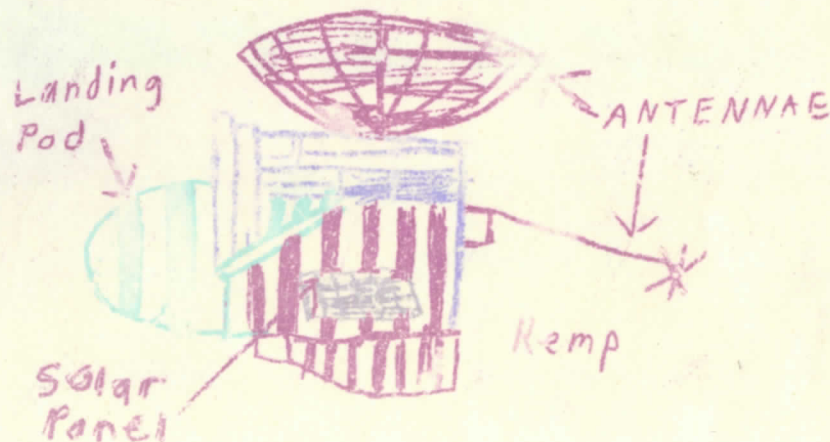
VENUS I
LAUNCHED ON Feb. 12,
1961



VENUS³ 3 and 4 are the same
type of Spacecraft.

My idea of VENUS³ and⁴

Portioned after VENUS I and low quality
photos of it.



These may not be too accurate. I am going by Russian postage stamps and photos