

Gill S.M.

National Aeronautics and Space Administration
Goddard Space Flight Center
Contract No. NAS-5-12487

ST-PR-LPS- 10 534

L U N A - 12

TRANSMITS PHOTOGRAPHS

(TASS COMMUNIQUE)

(USSR)

N 67-81091

(ACCESSION NUMBER)

6

(PAGES)

CR 81194

(NASA CR OR TMX OR AD NUMBER)

(THRU)

none

(CODE)

(CATEGORY)

3 NOVEMBER 1966

FACILITY FORM 502

L U N A -12

TRANSMITS PHOTOGRAPHS

(TASS COMMUNIQUE)

From
Newspaper "PRAVDA"
No.303 (17620)
MOSCOW, Sunday 30 Oct.1966

The automatic station "LUNA-12", placed into AMS orbit on 25 October 1966, pursues its flight along a selenocentric orbit.

According to the scheduled program of scientific investigations the automatic station "LUNA-12" performed from its orbit the photographing of separate areas of the surface of the Moon with the aid of a special photo-television apparatus.

The station "LUNA-12" pursues its investigation of the near-lunar space.

According to data of trajectory measurements the parameters of station's near-lunar orbit for 29 October are as follows: minimum range from the surface of the Moon (in periselion) near 100 km; maximum range from the lunar surface (in aposelion) near 1740 kilometers; period of revolution around the Moon 3hrs 25 min.

By 29 October 25 radiocommunication sessions were conducted with "LUNA-12". The telemetric information arriving from the station confirms its normal operation. Subsequent radiocommunication sessions with LUNA-12 relative to photograph transmission together with the results of scientific investigations and trajectory measurements will be conducted in accord with a preassigned program.

* "LUNA-12" PEREDAYET SNIMKI

The photographs, shown in the next two pages, were obtained from the altitude near 100 km from the Moon's surface. They represent an area of Mare Imbrium. The total area shown on each photograph is of the order of 50 square kilometers.

It is clearly seen that the area photographed corresponds to a comparatively smooth region, with a small number of craters. Nearly all of them are outlined by illuminated inner slopes. Contrary to standard major craters walls are absent in them. Well outlined are two groups of overlapping craters, located in the upper right-hand part of the first photograph (Plate 1). This area is located nearer to the terminator (which is the boundary between night and day on the Moon).

The region of the second photograph (Plate 2) is situated farther from the terminator. The character of the surface on the second photograph is just as smooth; however, the density of craters is here substantially higher.

A great number of clear spots constitute agglomerations of tiny craterlets, as a rule also devoid of walls.

It should be stressed that the details seen on the photos are hundred times tinier by comparison with the best photographs of ground observatories.

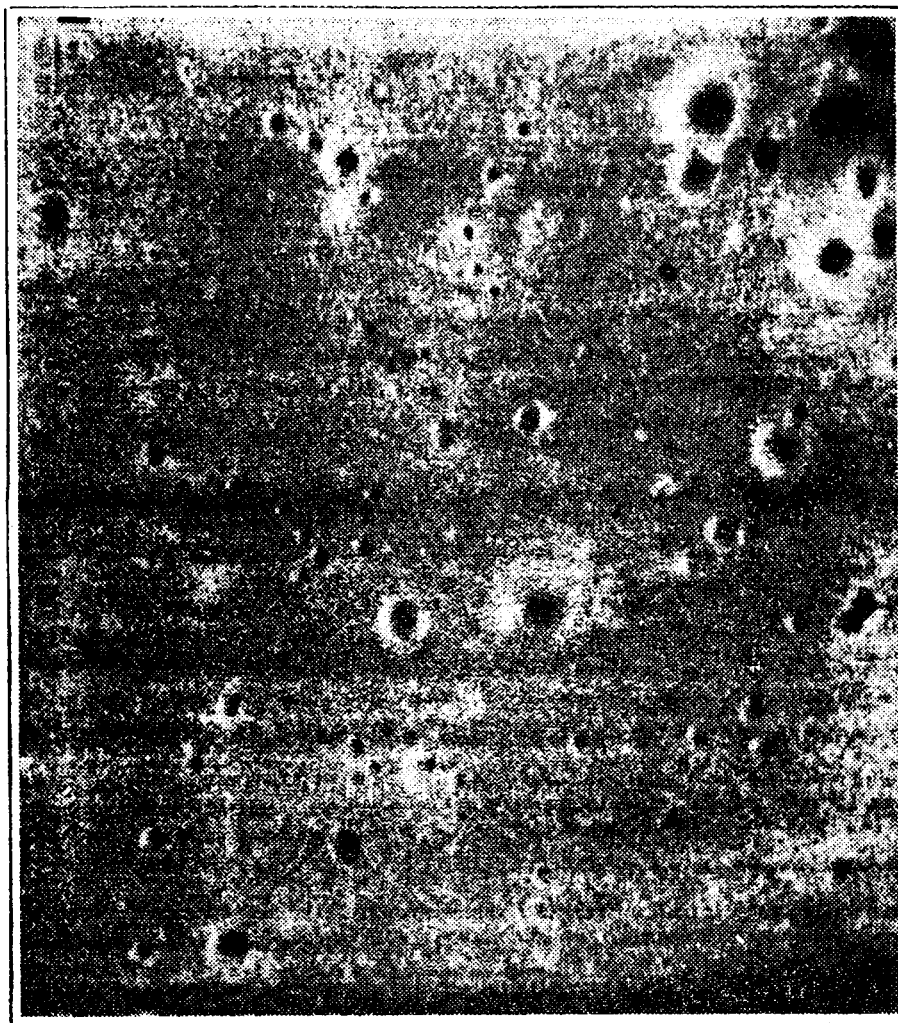
By the large-scale photographs, of which we now dispose, it is possible to further refine the structure of the surface and make apparent scores of new objects. Now that the artificial satellites of the Moon opened the path for new broad possibilities of investigation, new secrets of the antique SELENE will be uncovered. Orbiting around it at present are four proper satellites, of which three are Soviet.

*** E N D ***

Contract No. NAS-5-12487
VOLT TECHNICAL CORPORATION
1145, 19th st NW
D. C., 20036. Tel: 223-6700

Translated by
ANDRE L. BRICHANT

3 November 1966



Photograph 1

Note in the upper right-hand part of the photograph the two groups of overlapping craters. These are located nearer to the terminator



Photograph 2

The character of the surface is here as smooth as in the Photo 1, but the crater density here is significantly higher. Moreover, this area is farther from the terminator.

DISTRIBUTIONGODDARD SPACE F.C.

100, 110, 400, 600,
 601, 700, 730, 500
 610 MEREDITH
 611 McDONALD (2)
 612 HEPPNER (2)
 NESS
 613 KUPPERIAN (2)
 614 WHITE (2)
 615 BAUER (2)
 640 HESS
 O'KEEFE (3)
 641 CAMERON
 BURLEY
 LOWMAN
 643 SQUIRES
 SHUTE
 READING RM
 630 GI FOR SS (3)
 620 SPENCER (2)
 252 LIBRARY
 256 FREAS

N A S A H Q S

SS MEWELL NAUGLE
 SD CORTRIGHT
 SL NICKS
 SCHERER (4)
 WILMARTH
 BRYSON
 MOLLOY
 FELLOWS
 HIPHER
 HOROWITZ
 SG MITCHELL-SMITH
 ROMAN
 DUBIN
 SCHARDT
 SM FOSTER
 GILL
 SA JAFFE
 BADGLEY
 RR KURZWEG
 RTR NEILL
 M MUELLER (3)
 USS NAGURNIY
 WX SWEET

OTHER CENTERSA M E S R C

SONETT (3)
 LIBRARY

LANGLEY R C

116 KATZOFF
 185 WEATHERWAX
 160 ADAMSON
 159 G.C.BROOME

JET PROP.LAB.

180-905 PICKERING
 T-122 LPS (3)
 186-133 SpSc (3)
 VIS LAB WYCKOFF
 111-113 LIBRARY
UNIV.ARIZ.

KUIPER

UNIV.CAL.

UREY

plus all permanent addressees
