

# Luna Still Orbits; Moscow Keeps Silent

JODRELL BANK, England, (AP) — Jodrell Bank Observatory said today the unmanned Soviet spacecraft Luna 15 was still orbiting the moon, despite a temporary loss of signals that caused scientists here to speculate earlier it had changed course.

Observatory director Sir Bernard Lovell said signals from Luna 15 were received at 11:40 a.m. (6:40 EDT). He said the probe's two-hour path around the moon was unchanged. When signals were lost ear-

lier, an observatory spokesman said it appeared likely that the probe had either landed on the moon or was returning to earth.

He said it was unlikely that the probe had simply stopped transmitting radio signals. In Moscow, Soviet space authorities continued the silence on Luna 15 that has been maintained since Thursday, when the announcement was made that it had started circling the moon.

Western scientific experts here have cautioned against assuming that the prolonged lack

of new activity necessarily means the spacecraft has failed.

The Soviet sources here said today that now an attempt will be made to bring Luna 15 back to earth from orbit, without a moon landing. These were the same Soviet sources who once confidently predicted that the spacecraft would go down, scoop up moon soil, then make a return flight.

This was a further indication that all has not gone well with Luna 15. The official Soviet news agency Tass issued Friday night a report that suggested

the spaceship would not do anything more than orbit the moon.

But the evidence available is subject to different interpretation. In the absence of official clarification of the Luna 15 mission, experts here and elsewhere could do little but guess.

M. V. Keldysh, president of the Soviet Academy of Sciences, sent a telegram to U.S. astronaut Frank Borman Friday in which he guaranteed that Luna 15 would remain in its present orbit only until sometime today.

The Soviet message also assured the United States that

Luna 15 would not interfere with Apollo 11's mission. The Russians said Luna 15 was following an entirely different path around the moon than that planned for the astronauts.

That comment was borne out by astronomer at Jodrell Bank who said Luna 15 appeared to pose no danger to Apollo 11.

Prof. John G. Davies said Luna 15's two-hour orbit took it "hundreds of miles, maybe a thousand miles" from the Apollo landing site.

Lovell said Luna 15 remains in a close orbit 62 to 75 miles

above the lunar surface and was transmitting bursts of radio data.

But Davies and Lovell were just as mystified as the experts elsewhere as to the mission of Luna 15.

Whatever happens, no announcement is expected from Moscow officials. The Soviets refrain from stating that a spacecraft has a specific mission so that they don't have to announce a failure.

The excitement over Luna 15 has been based on semiofficial leaks. These were obviously meant to give the impression

the Soviet Union is capable of new space feats and does not lag behind the United States as much as it seems to.

The performance of Luna 15 up to this point has been a repetition of other spacecrafts in the series going back to 1966.

Even if Luna 15 accomplishes nothing else, the world is likely to be left with the impression that the Soviet Union came close to something spectacular. This would give a propaganda triumph that, from the Kremlin point of view, would do much to help offset a performance failure.



RUSSIANS SAY LUNA 15 WON'T CONFLICT WITH APOLLO 11  
Frank Borman, Chris Kraft Pass the Word at Houston Space Center

# Busy Trio on Apollo Gets to Sleep Late

## Moon Orbit Nearing, All Continues Well

By PHIL GARNER and JOHN PENNINGTON  
Atlanta Journal Staff Writers

HOUSTON—The busy Apollo 11 astronauts were allowed to sleep longer than scheduled Saturday morning as they coasted at 1,940 miles an hour toward a Saturday afternoon orbit of the moon.

Astronauts Neil Armstrong, Edwin Aldrin and Michael Collins entered the moon's gravitational influence at about 11:15 p.m. Friday, shortly before going to sleep. At that point, their spacecraft was 215,048 miles from earth and 48,596 miles from the moon.

A fourth scheduled course correction was passed up Saturday morning when ground controllers decided the spacecraft's trajectory would take it into lunar orbit without the rocket burn.

Controllers thus allowed the astronauts to remain asleep. At about 6:40 a.m., however, astronaut Aldrin awoke on his



APOLLO 11 ASTRONAUT BUZZ ALDRIN AT WORK IN LANDING MODULE  
Was Looking for Bracket for Camera That Will Record Landing

## BACTERIA, EXHAUST GASES

# Man's Pollution 'Progress' To Contaminate the Moon

HOUSTON (AP)—Like a spreading virus, man in his time has corrupted and polluted the waters, the air and the land of the earth that gives him life. And now, he is reaching out to contaminate the moon.

He will pollute its thin atmosphere. He will spread his own bacteria onto its surface. He will—as he has done already—litter the moon with things he no longer needs.

Such is the price the moon

will pay for receiving two astronauts this weekend. It is unavoidable if man is to go there. The braking rocket which will settle the lunar module on the moon's surface will discharge five tons of exhaust gases onto the moon, by one estimate.

This will equal five per cent of the moon's total existing atmosphere, if the guesses of some scientists are correct. The earth, by contrast, has about six quadrillion tons of atmosphere.

Bacteria and other organisms will leak out at the rate of 1,000 per minute from each of the two special spacecrafts worn by Neil A. Armstrong and Edwin E. Aldrin Jr. That totals more than 300,000 germs during their walking and working on the moon.

Nothing can prevent it. Even surgeons and nurses in supposedly sterile operating rooms exude more microbes than that from their bodies—not just their breath but from their skins as well—even after they have scrubbed up and donned special gowns.

So common are microbes—many of which are essential to maintain animal and human health—that Dr. Theodor Rosebury, emeritus professor of bacteriology at Washington University in St. Louis, estimates in a new book, "Life on Man," that

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# Thor, Crew Quit Battered Reed Boat

CHRISTIANSTED, V.I. (AP)—Deciding repairs were impossible, Thor Heyerdahl and his six-man crew abandoned the battered reed boat Ra Friday night 600 miles from their destination.

The unanimous decision was made after one crewman was chased by sharks when he dived under the ship to try to secure two papyrus ropes that had broken loose.

Heyerdahl and his men boarded the escorting fishing craft Shenandoah and sailed for Bridgetown, Barbados, where they were expected Sunday night or Monday.

Heyerdahl said the Ra might drift by itself to Barbados. "I think the main thing is that they were just tired," said Schoenbohm. "They have had a hell of an ordeal the last 70 days or so."

He said the Ra lost its yard

## STREET SCENES

Walking Rainbow: Quick shower catching gentleman in bright blue shirt and daughter on Ponce de Leon, but luckily he has bright green umbrella in hand.

Burford Highway motorists puzzling over red car with child's underthings stretched over top.

Lady visitor to Capitol telling newspaperman he should be ashamed of himself after press conference in which the man's question caused a politician's temper to erupt.

# 27 Enemy Slain, No Americans Die

SAIGON (AP)—American troops killed 27 enemy soldiers but suffered no casualties in a four-hour battle near Tay Ninh City, 50 miles northwest of Saigon, military spokesmen said Saturday.

The fight six miles northeast of the key provincial capital, which allied intelligence says may be the main target of a new enemy drive, was the only major disruption reported as the battlefield lull entered its fifth week.

The battle Friday involved troops of the 25th Infantry Division. Later, B52 bombers struck around Tay Ninh and at enemy positions at the base of Black Virgin Mountain.

South Vietnam President Nguyen Van Thieu, answering questions at a news conference, said he did not believe U.S. and South Vietnamese policymakers should read any political implications into the battlefield lull.

He said the Communists have decreased their battlefield activities many times, three or four times this year alone, but only to rest and re-equip their forces. This is the opinion of the lull was in accord with the expressed views of most American commanders in Saigon. They believe the Communist command is girding for another "high point" in its sporadic summer campaign.

Gen. Earle Wheeler, chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, and Adm. John McCain Jr., U.S. Pacific commander, are investigating the meaning of the current lull. They are on a four-day Vietnam tour expected to end Sunday.

Wheeler and McCain also are understood to be examining the prospects for further withdrawals of American troops beyond the 25,000 now being pulled out. The fight near Tay Ninh City

## Forecast: Hot With Showers

Afternoon and evening thunderstorms are in the forecast for another hot weekend, the U.S. Weather Bureau says.

Throughout Georgia skies will be fair to partly cloudy. The showers will be widely scattered over the state, with morning temperatures ranging from 67-73, and highs from 88 to 94.

Atlanta's weather will be fair to partly cloudy and hot, with a 20 per cent chance of afternoon thunderstorms Sunday.

Low Sunday morning will be 70 and the afternoon high, 90. Sunrise Sunday will be at 6:41 a.m. and sunset at 8:46 p.m.

# PINEY WOODS PETE Says:

DEAR MISTER EDITOR:

The Maryland Board of Motion Picture Censors has banned a Swedish film which shows the sex act in frank terms, saying if they can't ban that sort of thing, they can't ban anything.

They indicate they may go out of business if the courts reverse their ruling. Maybe they should go out of business. The public should not think it has some protection when in fact it has none.

Yours truly,  
PINEY WOODS PETE

# Thieu Vows South To Continue Fight

SAIGON (AP)—President Nguyen Van Thieu said Saturday that if the Communists do not accept his latest peace proposals, "the South Vietnamese people will have no choice but to continue to fight."

He said he hoped that in this case the United States "would continue to defend freedom" in South Vietnam. Answering questions at a news conference, Thieu also said he would do everything he could to enable South Vietnamese forces to replace American troops. But he cautioned that U.S. withdrawal must be a gradual process.

Asked if he agreed with former U.S. Defense Secretary Clark Clifford, who proposed that all U.S. combat troops be pulled out by the end of 1970, Thieu said only that a "very important part" of these troops could be withdrawn, and only if

South Vietnam gets enough U.S. equipment and funds.

Thieu also said he hopes the Viet Cong's National Liberation Front will reconsider its "formal rejection" of a proposal he made July 11 for free elections with NLF participation. He indicated that he would make no more offers to them, and said his latest one should not be considered "a sign of weakness."

Thieu disagreed with some South Vietnamese senators and other politicians who have complained that he violated the constitution by inviting the NLF to take an electoral role and by not consulting the National Assembly before making his offer.

He said the constitution gives him the right to make a "peace initiative." And he said that if any final solution to the war is arranged, he would first consult the people and the National Assembly.

On other matters, Thieu discounted speculation that the present lull in enemy attacks has political significance and predicted that attacks will resume after the enemy is rested and has new supplies.

Thieu said in answer to another question that he would have "many things" to discuss with President Nixon if Nixon comes to Vietnam later this month during his trip around the world. But he did not confirm that Nixon would visit Vietnam.

Asked later by Vietnamese newsmen about changes he is expected to make in his Cabinet, Thieu said he intended to broaden its base by allowing members of various political groups to participate. He said the changes "would bring about more efficiency and more democracy."

He did not indicate when he would make the changes or what posts would be affected.



## SPECIAL REPORT

own and radioed Mission Control Center here.

"Are we going to need MC (my course) number four?" Aldrin asked the ground.

"That's negative," the controller replied. "We're planning to let you sleep a little more."

"THE CONTROLLER attempted to continue the conversation, but got no response from Aldrin. "Well, so much for that," the ground controller said.

"Looks like they're gonna turn over and go back to sleep." The astronauts were to have arisen at 6:30 a.m., but were allowed an extra two hours' rest.

Mission controllers said "all continues to go well on the flight" if all goes according to plan, the command ship, called Columbia, linked to the lunar landing craft, called Eagle, will fire its rocket to enter a lopsided lunar orbit Saturday afternoon of 69 by 195 miles. A second

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