

## EXPLORER VI 'PADDLEWHEEL' SATELLITE LAUNCHED INTO ELLIPTICAL ORBIT

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SOLAR PADDLE (Above) -- A test solar paddle is fitted to Explorer VI satellite to determine final design. The solar paddles on the satellite are four in number, extending from the equator of the satellite. Folded birdlike beneath the satellite during flight of the Thor-Able III space probe rocket, the paddles expanded into place through the force of springs and centrifugal force as the satellite separated from the rocket and spun into orbit. The energy of sunlight, harnessed by 8000 silicon solar cells covering the paddles, is converted to power to operate the satellite's instrumentation.

ROCKET STAGES (Below) -- The second and third stages of the Thor Able III rocket were fitted together at the Flight Test Facilities of Space Technology Laboratories, Los Angeles. The third stage, foreground, is the solid-propellant rocket that coasted into orbit with the satellite. The liquid-fueled second stage, supported here by the trailer, is undergoing a series of component tests. These stages were shipped to Cape Canaveral, Florida, and mounted upon an Air Force Thor IRBM, then topped with a satellite. (59-11395)



SCIENCE. - ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE. - (EXPLORER VI)