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PEACEFUL SPACE EXPLORATION -- U.S. PROGRESS AND PLANS

Part III - "Research and Development"

During its short lifetime, the United States space program has accelerated rapidly to keep pace with man's desire to investigate and travel far beyond his planet. Since the National Aeronautics and Space Administration was established in 1958, the nation's resources in science and technology have been marshalled for the tremendous task of research and development that has led to progress in exploration. Today, the program -- diversified, complex and costly -- is nationwide in scope. Men and women in every-known field of science and the work force in thousands of factories are participating in a vast effort to acquire knowledge of space and to use space for beneficial purposes. A few of the scientific and technological details of this effort are shown in this group of photographs.

13-16 A worker completes one-half of a spherical capsule made of balsa wood, which will be packed with instruments to be dropped on the moon. The lightweight "bouncy" balsa-wood shell is designed to protect the instrument package during and after the lunar landing. Inside the shell will be an array of devices to record

and 62-2631 Science: Astronautics (Research)

Un obrero completa la mitad de una cápsula esférica hecha de madera de balsa, que se llenará de instrumentos y se dejará caer en la luna. El escaso peso de la cubierta de madera de balsa, resistente al mismo tiempo, ha sido diseñada para proteger al paquete de instrumentos durante el descenso del mismo en la Luna y después. En el interior de la cápsula se colocarán los instrumentos para grabar y transmitir a tierra información de las características de la superficie y atmosfera de la Luna. Una prueba lunar "Ranger" portadora de una cápsula de madera de balsa ha sido ya lanzada por los Estados Unidos, pero falló en hacer descender los instrumentos como se había planeado en la parte iluminada de la Luna. Otras pruebas de la serie "Ranger" serán lanzadas. Las cápsulas de balsa podrán ser utilizadas también para estudiar los planetas.

