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Picture Story No. 696

## UNIQUE ATOMIC POWER DEVICES REVEALED BY U.S.

As a result of a pioneer "atoms for peace" effort, the United States has placed in orbit the first space satellite ever to be powered by nuclear energy and is operating the world's first radioisotope-powered weather station. This U.S. program has been devoted to the development of a group of unique nuclear-powered devices that are small, lightweight, reliable and capable of operating for years unattended and with no servicing or refueling. These two initial achievements are the forerunners of many practical, beneficial applications of the revolutionary new power devices planned for the future.

1-7 Technicians preparing the Transit navigational satellite for launching attach the tiny nuclear power device, known as SNAP, to the space vehicle. This unique device, which powers instruments and radio transmitters in the satellite, is expected to remain in operation for at least five years. Five tons of conventional batteries would be needed to provide the electricity that will be produced by the five-pound (2.27 kilogram) SNAP. (61-9423) Photo courtesy of The Martin Company.

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SCIENCE - ARTIFICIAL SATELLITE: TRANSIT