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CLOUD MAP OF VENUS -- Using infrared data returned by the Pioneer Orbiter during its first trip around Venus in December, U.S. scientists created this map of the planet's cloud cover. The coverage extends from the north pole (along the top) to 30 degrees South latitude (lower left). This view from above the equator (lower right) distorts distances in the polar region. Variations in colors indicate differences in cloud altitudes and temperatures. The infrared experiment team at Ames Research Center in California is analysing this data to learn more about weather and atmospheric circulation patterns on Venus. (79-405-C)

NOTE: View photo with long thin feature at lower left corner.

