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PHOTO NO. 74-H-226  
MARINER 10-19 (Mercury)  
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This picture of Mercury was taken by Mariner 10 from a distance of 500,000 kilometers (310,000 miles) about 13 hours before the spacecraft reached the planet on March 29. The lunar-like surface displays craters as large as 200 kilometers (120 miles) in diameter, and features as small as 11 kilometers (6.8 miles) can be detected. The South pole of Mercury is located on the day-night terminator near the bottom of the illuminated portion of the planet. The sun is shining from the left. The picture was processed and computer-enhanced automatically by the JPL Mission and Test Computer in real time as the radio transmission was received from the spacecraft.

