

ROP

ACTION: USIS2 INFO AMB DCM POL PM PC EC 7

VZCZCMD0605
RR RUEHMD
DE RUEHFO #7872/01 3151940
ZNR UUUUU
R 101938Z NOV 84
FM USINFO WASHDC
TO ALL EUA ALPHA POSTS
RUEHPS/USIS PARIS
ALL EUB BETA POSTS
RUFHOM/AMCONSUL MILAN
ALL AF WKND SERVICE POSTS
ALL AR WF MONITORING POSTS
ALL NEAR EAST POSTS
ALL SOUTH ASIA POSTS
ALL EA WF MONITORING POSTS
RUHQHQ/USCINCPAC HONOLULU HI
RUMVC/AMEMBASSY BANDAR SERI BEGAWAN
INFO RUEHIN/AIT TAIPEI
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UNCLAS

LOC: DISK 37 226
11 NOV 84 1941
CN: 22030
CHRG: USIS
DIST: USIN

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USINFO
USIS PAO/IC'S FROM P/PFO
EO 12356 N/A

USIS ROUTING
ACTION: <i>ROP</i>
INFO:
OTHER:
CHRON:

WFU-03 11/10/84
DISCOVERY CREW LAUNCHES SECOND SATELLITE
(ARTICLE ON NASA BRIEFING)
BY JIM FULLER
USIA SCIENCE CORRESPONDENT
(BEGIN TEXT)

JOHNSON SPACE CENTER, TEXAS -- ASTRONAUTS ABOARD THE U.S. SPACE SHUTTLE DISCOVERY HAVE SUCCESSFULLY LAUNCHED A SECOND SATELLITE INTO SPACE AND BEGAN PREPARATIONS FOR THE RETRIEVAL OF TWO OTHER SATELLITES LEFT IN LOW ORBITS EARLIER THIS YEAR.

SYNCOM IV, A SATELLITE DESIGNED SPECIFICALLY FOR LAUNCH FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE, WAS DEPLOYED AT 12:56 GMT NOV. 10, AS DISCOVERY BEGAN THE THIRD DAY OF ITS EIGHT-DAY SPACE MISSION.

"ALL I CAN SAY ABOUT THE SYNCOM LAUNCH IS THAT IT WAS PERFECT," EXCLAIMED FLIGHT DIRECTOR LARRY BOURGEOIS, FOLLOWING THE SUCCESSFUL MANEUVER.

"ALL SYSTEMS ARE REPORTED O.K."
THE CYLINDRICAL SATELLITE, RESTING HORIZONTALLY IN THE SHUTTLE'S CARGO BAY, WAS SENT INTO SPACE WITH A SPINNING MOTION, SIMILAR TO THE WRIST SNAP WHEN THROWING A "FRISBEE" FLYING DISC.

AFTER 45 MINUTES, A TIMER IGNITED A SOLID-FUEL KICK MOTOR EMBEDDED WITHIN THE SATELLITE TO BOOST ITS ORBIT FROM 291 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE EARTH TO A HIGH POINT OF ABOUT 15,270 KILOMETERS.

THIS WILL BE FOLLOWED BY SEVERAL FIRINGS OF THE SATELLITE'S LIQUID FUEL ENGINES, PERFORMED OVER A PERIOD

OF SEVERAL DAYS, TO PLACE THE SPACE CRAFT IN A CIRCULAR ORBIT 35,680 KILOMETERS ABOVE THE EQUATOR, WHERE IT WILL REMAIN STATIONARY, MOVING AT PRECISELY THE SAME RATE THAT THE EARTH TURNS.

SYNCOM IV IS THE NINTH COMMERCIAL SATELLITE SUCCESSFULLY DEPLOYED INTO A GEO-STATIONARY ORBIT FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE.

THE FIRST WAS LAUNCHED FROM THE SHUTTLE COLUMBIA IN NOVEMBER, 1982.

THE 4.2-METER-WIDE SYNCOM WAS BUILT TO BE CARRIED ONLY IN THE 4.5-METER-WIDE CARGO BAY OF THE SPACE SHUTTLE. ITS WIDE-BODY ALSO PERMITS ITS UNIQUE SOLID-FUEL KICK MOTOR TO BE EMBEDDED WITHIN THE SATELLITE, RATHER THAN ATTACHED AS A SEPARATE STAGE.

THE SATELLITE'S COMPACT DESIGN GREATLY REDUCES LAUNCH COSTS, WHICH ARE DETERMINED BY THE WEIGHT AND LENGTH OF A SATELLITE STORED IN THE SHUTTLE'S CARGO BAY.

SYNCOM IV IS THE SECOND IN A SERIES OF SYNCOM SATELLITES LAUNCHED FROM THE SPACE SHUTTLE THIS YEAR. THE SATELLITES, OWNED BY HUGHES COMMUNICATIONS SERVICES, ARE BEING LEASED BY THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE TO PROVIDE WORLDWIDE COMMUNICATION BETWEEN SHIPS, PLANES AND ON-SHORE FACILITIES.

THE FIVE SATELLITES, INCLUDING ONE SPARE, WILL OCCUPY POSITIONS SOUTH OF THE UNITED STATES AND OVER THE ATLANTIC, PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS. THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT WILL PAY HUGHES 83.75 MILLION DOLLARS FOR THE SERVICES OF EACH SATELLITE FOR FIVE YEARS.

MEANWHILE, DISCOVERY IS RACING TO CATCH UP TO THE PALAPA SATELLITE, THE FIRST OF TWO WAYWARD SATELLITES THE SHUTTLE ASTRONAUTS WILL ATTEMPT TO CAPTURE ON NOVEMBER 12 AND 14 RESPECTIVELY. THE SATELLITES WERE LEFT FLOATING IN USELESS ORBITS BY A FAULTY ROCKET BOOSTER NINE MONTHS AGO.

ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE TOUGHEST PART OF THE UPCOMING SATELLITE RETRIEVAL MISSION, FLIGHT DIRECTOR RANDY STONE TOLD REPORTERS THE STRANDED SATELLITES "ARE NOT DESIGNED TO BE RETRIEVABLE AND WE'VE HAD TO DEVELOP NEW HARDWARE IN A FAIRLY SHORT PERIOD OF TIME.

"BUT WE'RE CONFIDENT THAT THE HARDWARE IS GOING TO WORK AND I DON'T SEE ANY PROBLEMS IN THE MAKING RIGHT NOW THAT WE DON'T KNOW HOW TO SOLVE, BUT WE'LL HAVE TO SEE WHEN WE GET THERE."

(END TEXT)

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