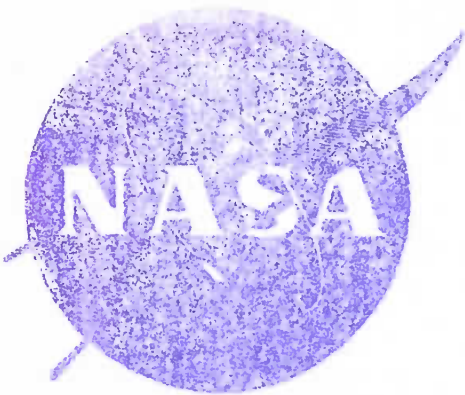


NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
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 MARINER 10-26 (Mercury)
 P-14469

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This picture of the densely cratered surface of Mercury was taken by Mariner 10 when the spacecraft was 18,200 kilometers (11,300 miles) from the planet on March 29. The dark line across top of picture is a "dropout" of a few TV lines of data. At lower left, a portion of a 61-kilometer (38 mile) crater shows a flow front extending across the crater floor and filling more than half of the crater. The smaller, fresh crater at center is about 25 kilometers (15 miles) in diameter. Craters as small as one kilometer (about one-half mile) across are visible in the picture.

