

FOR RELEASE:
PHOTO NO.

December 13, 1978
78-FC-576
78-11-734
AC78-9040

This photograph is a government publication---not subject to copy-right.

It may not be used to state or imply the endorsement by NASA or by any NASA employee of a commercial product, process or service, or used in any other manner that might mislead. Accordingly, it is requested that if this photograph is used in advertising, and other commercial promotion, layout and copy be submitted to NASA prior to release.

This image is a computer enhancement of the first image of Venus' northern hemisphere obtained by the Infrared Radiometer aboard the Pioneer Venus spacecraft on 5 December, 1978. It reveals details, which may be correlated with Venus's ultraviolet markings. The white cross at the center marks the position of the North Pole. The Radiometer measures the intensity of the thermal emission from the planet's atmosphere, and therefore is able to "see" both the daytime and nighttime sides. The partial coverage seen in this polar view shows a dark, cool, cloud band near the pole. The polar temperature is measured to be -30 c, 20 c warmer than the equator and 30 c warmer than the nearby cloud band.

