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First image of Venus' northern hemisphere obtained by the Infrared Radiometer aboard the Pioneer Venus spacecraft on 9 December 1978. The white cross at the center marks the position of the north pole. The radiometer measures the intensity of thermal emission from the planet; 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. Computer enhancement of this image reveals details which may be correlated with Venus' ultraviolet markings.

