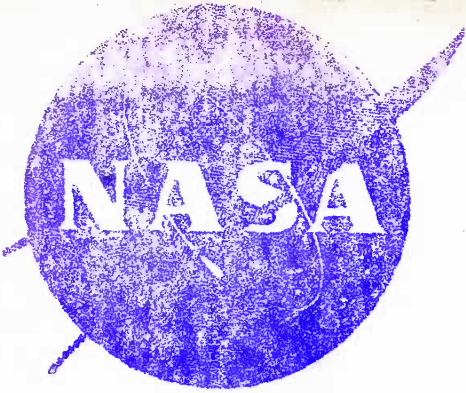


WASHINGTON, D. C. 20546



FOR RELEASE: Filed: February 28, 1975  
PHOTO NO. 75-HC-63  
75-H-144

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.

KENNEDY SPACE CENTER, FLA.--Viking Lander Capsule #2 (VLC-2) arrives at KSC in Spacecraft Assembly and Encapsulation Building (SAEB). VLC-2 being de-encapsulated after shipment from Martin Marietta. This flight capsule launched to Mars in 1975 will be "baked" at 113 degrees C (236 degrees F) for 40 hours before launch to prevent contamination of Mars with Earth's organisms and to prevent erroneous detection of Martian life. Martin Marietta is the prime contractor for the lander. The Viking mission calls for two unmanned spacecraft to traverse some 460 million miles from Earth to make a soft landing on Mars. Each of the spacecraft will carry a life-detecting laboratory, in addition to other experiments and television cameras. Launch is planned for late summer 1975, with landing on Mars scheduled for mid-summer 1976.



PHOTO CREDIT--NASA or National Aeronautics and Space Administration