

8 x 10 1/2

Picture Story No. 696

UNIQUE ATOMIC POWER DEVICES REVEALED BY U. S.

As a result of a pioneer "atoms for peace" effort, the United States has placed in orbit the first space satellite ever to be powered by nuclear energy and is operating the world's first radioisotope-powered weather station. This U. S. program has been devoted to the development of a group of unique nuclear-power devices that are small, lightweight, reliable and capable of operating for years unattended and with no servicing or refueling. These two initial achievements are the forerunners of many practical, beneficial applications of the revolutionary new power devices planned for the future.

3-7 One of the first atomic-power devices in the series known as SNAP is tested on a centrifuge that simulates the acceleration of a rocket launch into space. In exhaustive safety tests, the atomic-power device now in space remained intact and released no radioactivity even as the result of severe explosion and fire. The entire SNAP device will burn completely when it re-enters the earth's atmosphere. The fine atomic particles resulting from its destruction will be widely dispersed and held for years in the stratosphere. No measureable quantity of radiation will ever descend to earth. The SNAP device is designed, shielded and tested to assure its safety. (61-9425) Photo Courtesy of The Martin Company

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SPLENCE - ASTROPHYSICS (RESEARCH)