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SPACE
Russia In on Echo II Satellite Now in Orbit

➤ A SECOND ECHO communications satellite is now brightly visible in the sky. The Soviet Union told the United States that it is for the first time taking part in space communications experiments using the Echo balloon. This action carries out the agreement made last summer by Dr. Hugh Dryden, deputy administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and Dr. Anatoly A. Blagonravov of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.


NASA hurled the reflecting balloon, 135 feet in diameter, into a near polar orbit with an apogee of 816 miles. Launch was from Vandenberg Air Force Base, Pacific Missile Range, Calif., on Jan. 25. The satellite, visible from all parts of the world at some time or another, orbits the earth every hour and 49 minutes.

The balloon, made of Mylar plastic coated on each side with aluminum foil, was partially inflated with air, then expanded fully as a chemical inside Echo changed into a gas. However, the passive communications satellite is designed to remain rigid even after all the gas has escaped, in order to see whether it will stay spherical as long as it is in orbit.

The satellite has been used to reflect radio waves between any two stations from which it is visible at the same time. It also is being used to gather information about space conditions.

• Science News Letter, 85:94 Feb. 8, 1964

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G. T. Schjeldahl

ECHO II—The Echo II "Satelloon" is shown during static inflation tests at Lakehurst, N. J. About 45 tons of air are required to inflate the 1.3 million-cubic-foot volume of the huge sphere developed by the G. T. Schjeldahl Company, Northfield, Minn., for NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center.

EDUCATION
Training of African Educators Continues

➤ IN ANSWER to a demand for professionally qualified educators by the new nations of Africa, a joint Afro-Anglo-American program in teacher education will be continued through 1964-65.

Teachers holding at least a Bachelor's degree will study half a year at Teachers College, Columbia University, New York, and a half year at the University of London Institute of Education. Emphasis at the London Institute is placed on African educational situations, English educational ideas and practice, and methods of instruction in African schools.

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