will be dropped (1,500 were dropped this fiscal year).

"We have curtailed several NASA activities which were important to the nation's space and aeronautics program," NASA Administrator James C. Fletcher said this week. "But despite these cuts, [we] have maintained a surprisingly strong program." NASA saved the 1975 Viking landers, the 1977 Jupiter-Saturn fly-bys and OSO I. The second probe to Jupiter and a Mariner Venus-Mercury fly-by will be launched this calendar year. Skylab will be flown as well as the U.S./U.S.S.R. docking mission in 1975. Work on the space shuttle will continue, but at a slower pace.

Fletcher proudly announced two new starts for fiscal year 1974—Nimbus G, an experimental earth-oriented satellite directed at environmental pollution and oceanographic measurements, and LAGEOS, a new geodetic satellite for accurate measurements of movements of the earth's surface. Nimbus will fly in 1977; LAGEOS, 1976.

There was one hopeful note for NASA: Administration budget projections for fiscal year 1975 indicate NASA may be back "up" to $3.2 billion. □

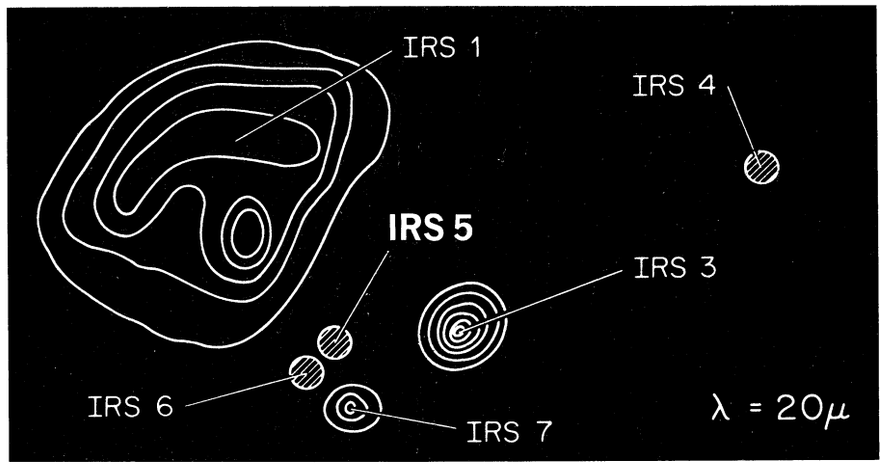
Slayton chosen for Apollo/Soyuz mission

One of the original seven Mercury astronauts, Donald Kent (Deke) Slayton, was selected this week for the crew of the Apollo/Soyuz Joint Docking Mission. The U.S.-Soviet joint flight will be launched July 15, 1975. Thomas P. Stafford, veteran of Gemini 6 and 9 and Apollo 10 was named commander of the mission. Vance Brand is the third crew member. Brand is one of the few pilots from group five who has not flown in space.

Named to the backup crew are Alan L. Bean, Ronald E. Evans and Jack R. Lousma.

This summer the Soviet cosmonauts will go to Houston for a joint training session with the astronauts. In the fall the astronauts will train in the Soviet Union. The astronauts have been studying Russian.

Slayton is the only one of the seven original astronauts who has not flown in space. He was taken off flight status because of a heart irregularity just before his scheduled Mercury flight. The ailment disappeared in 1969, and he was subsequently placed back on flight status. He has been Director of Flight Crew Operations at the Manned Spacecraft Center in Houston and in charge of naming all space crews. The new crew, however, was recommended by Christopher Kraft, director of MSC. The flight is the last manned mission before manned shuttle tests. □



Hale Observatories

A star is born, IRS-5, in one part of a large gas cloud in the galaxy.

An embryo star larger than the solar system

Clouds of dust and gas in the universe are the birth places of stars. These clouds contain vast quantities of hydrogen from which stars are formed. Ten years ago Eric Becklin found an object in such a cloud he thought to be a star being born. This embryo star or "protostar" is in the Orion nebula.

Now he, Gareth Wynn-Williams and Gerry Neugebauer, all of the Hale Observatories in California, report the discovery of an object emitting 10 to 20 times as much energy as the Orion protostar. The new object, called IRS-5 (Infrared Source 5), is emitting 30,000 times more energy than the sun and is larger than the entire solar system.

But its temperature is extremely low—only 170 degrees F. Normal stars have temperatures of about 5,000 degrees F. The new object is not associated with any visible source. It does coincide with a radio source emitting energy in the microwave region of the spectrum.

Becklin thinks the cold giant is in the process of collapsing under its own gravitational forces. It will become, in a thousand years or so, a much hotter, more compact and exceptionally bright star.

IRS-5 was found in a dense cloud of gas called W3, located about 10,000 light-years away in the Perseus spiral arm of the Milky Way galaxy. Wynn-Williams had been studying the hot hydrogen gas in the cloud for years. There was indirect evidence the cloud contained several fairly young stars (about 10,000 years old), but the dust in the cloud obscured the stars in the visible light. By using infrared detectors attached to telescopes, the researchers have now confirmed the presence of the young hot stars. In fact, one of them is only a few light-years away from the new object discovered. The bright star is hidden at the center of the cloud, W3, behind the dust.

The astronomers have also used the infrared detectors to measure temperatures and thicknesses of the dust in the cloud W3. Eventually, they say, the radiation in the cloud will cause the dust to disperse, allowing the new stars to be seen from earth. □

Baboons too use tools

Since 1960, Jane van Lawick-Goodall, a protégé of the late Louis S. B. Leakey, has been studying the behaviors of chimpanzees in their natural habitat. Working in the Gombe National Park in Tanzania, East Africa, van Lawick-Goodall and her husband, photographer Hugo van Lawick, have received wide attention for their descriptive studies of animal behaviors—especially tool-making and tool-use among wild chimpanzees. But the tool-use studies are not confined to chimpanzees. In the Jan. 19 NATURE she, her husband and C. Parker describe two incidents of tool-use by free-living baboons in Gombe National Park.

To feed on the seeds of a certain fruit, baboons must break open a pod in which the seeds are surrounded by a white glutinous juice that dries to a consistency of rubber cement. When this food is in season the hair around the baboons' lips frequently becomes matted by the juice. Usually they attempt to remove the juice by rubbing their mouths against a tree or large rock. One three-year-old female, however, was observed picking up a stone and repeatedly and forcibly rubbing it across her muzzle in an attempt to remove the dried juice.

In a separate incident, an adult male of a different troop cut his lip during a fight. Blood and saliva ran down his