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6-16-69

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(Effective September 1, The University of Texas at Dallas)

SPACE FLIGHT SCHEDULES FOR SCAS/UTD INCLUDE THREE JUNE EVENTS; "TARGET" UP FOR "NEAR MISS" ATTEMPT, SECOND "IMP" FLIGHT ON SCHEDULE THIS WEEK

Release on Receipt
June 16, 1969

Al Mitchell, Director of
Public Affairs - Ext 215

With public attention drawn to Gov. Preston Smith's signing of legislation to create The University of Texas at Dallas, space experiments also fill the June schedule of the present Southwest Center for Advanced Studies.

The SCAS will officially become part of the UT System, as a science graduate education center, on Sept. 1; legislation enabling the UT System regents to accept the SCAS as a \$14 million gift was signed at the Richardson campus site on June 13.

Space events center in California, Brazil, and possibly at Cape Kennedy during June. Next on the schedule is the launch of Interplanetary Monitoring Platform G (IMP-G) from the Western Test Range at Lompoc, Calif., in the wee hours of Wednesday, June 18.

IMP-G will carry the second of a series of cosmic ray pattern and energy detectors designed and built by the SCAS' Cosmic Ray group. The instrument will be placed in a highly-eccentric orbit around the Earth, over polar regions.

The improved instrument will also detect solar and magnetospheric electrons, as well as solar and galactic X-ray radiation.

Asst. Prof. Ricardo A. R. Palmeira and Dr. Frank R. Allum, Research Associate, are the principal investigators in the IMP program.

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Launched from the same California site June 5 was Orbiting Geophysical Observatory F (OGO-F, re-named OGO 6 following launch). The 1100-pound space package went into a near-perfect polar orbit, swinging around the Earth each

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99.6 minutes, with an 1100-mile apogee and 400-mile perigee.

Two experiments from the SCAS' Ionospheric Studies group are aboard. An ionospheric duct detector was described by Research Scientist Thomas W. Flowerday as "giving excellent data" and a mass spectrometer as "performing normally" but expected to improve as pressure within the instrument package reduces.

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OGO 6 functions both as a major experiment carrier and as a "target" for a late-June launch program.

Now listed for June 26, the Ionospheric Studies group will send a probe into the ionospheric regions of the Earth's atmosphere from near Natal, Brazil. The probe will be boosted by a Javelin rocket assembly, capable of reaching 800 kilometer altitude.

The intent is to get profile data from the ionosphere in equatorial latitudes as OGO 6 looks down on the region. A "near miss" is planned between probe and satellite, but its terms call for the two to pass within a few hundred kilometers, said Mr. Flowerday. The ideal outcome, he explained, would be for the two instrument-carriers to be in the same latitude, with the probe at a slightly different longitude, east or west of the satellite path.

Prof. William B. Hanson is principal investigator for both the OGO and the probe experiments.

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The fifth Pioneer instrument from the SCAS may be launched from Cape Kennedy in late June, but may have to defer until August because of Apollo launch schedules and a present delay in the Biosatellite launch program. Asst. Prof. Robert P. Bukata is principal investigator in the Pioneer programs at the SCAS. The cosmic ray detector flights are in interplanetary orbits.

The SCAS is fourth largest supplier of unmanned space experiments for National Aeronautics and Space Administration among United States universities.