

First unmanned space capsule landed on Mars by Soviets

MOSCOW (AP) — An unmanned Soviet space capsule parachuted onto Mars and sent television and radio signals to earth, Tass reported Tuesday. It is the first time that a functioning manmade object had soft-landed on the planet's dusty surface.

The capsule was dispatched to Mars last Thursday from the Soviet probe Mars 3, which continued to circle the planet in an orbit more than 930 miles high, the Soviet news agency announced.

The agency gave no details on the shape or weight of the capsule which landed or the next step in its mission.

Tass said, however, that the craft sent radio signals to the Mars 3 mothership, which in turn relayed them to earth Thursday through Sunday. The agency added that the vehicle also sent some "video signals" but they "were brief and suddenly discontinued."

Mars 3 was launched May 28 and took 188 days to reach the red planet, 76 million miles from earth. It followed closely behind Mars 2, launched May 19.

Mars 2 dipped into a wide elliptical orbit of Mars on Nov. 27 and began a photoreconnaissance. The Soviets said it would not attempt a soft landing. It fired a capsule containing a hammer and sickle pennant to the surface.

An American Mars probe, Mar-

iner 9, has been circling the planet since Nov. 13, trying to peer through a dust storm which has raged on the surface since September, thwarting scientists' attempts to map it.

The Soviet space capsule apparently found the Martian surface solid enough to make a stable landing. American scientists had expressed fears earlier that the dust on the surface of Mars was even thicker than that

on the moon and that a craft attempting to land might sink out of sight.

Tass indicated that neither Mars 2 nor Mars 3 would be involved in any more space spectaculars.

The agency said a computer on board Mars 3 made the final corrections in its trajectory Thursday and put it into position for the separation of the descent craft.

"After separation," the agency continued, "the descent craft entered into the planet's atmosphere, parachuted down and softly landed in the southern hemisphere of Mars between the Electris and Phaetonis regions."

The agency said some of the instruments involved in the Mars 3 probe were made by French specialists under the Soviet-French program of scientific and technical cooperation.

William Pickering, director of the Mariner 9 project, said at Jet Propulsion Laboratory Pasadena, Calif., that he was surprised at the reported landing of the Mars 3 capsule in view of the two major Soviet probes to Mars.

"It will be very interesting to see what kind of data they collect on the surface," he said, "how they measure the dust that is still raging..."

Dowdy under observation at hospital

BALTIMORE, Md. (AP) — Rep. John Dowdy, D-Tex., was under observation in "satisfactory" condition at a hospital Tuesday after complaining of feeling ill at his bribery-conspiracy trial in U.S. District Court.

Prosecution and defense lawyers were to meet Wednesday with the judge hearing the case to receive further reports of the veteran lawmaker's condition.

The Democrat from Athens in East Texas complained to Judge Rozel Thomas during the morning session of his trial in its fifth week. He was excused from the proceeding and he went to University Hospital for examination.

Dowdy was admitted to the intensive cardiac care unit Tuesday afternoon under care of two doctors, heart specialist Dr. Leonard Scherlis of University Hospital, and Dr. E. Coles Andrus of Johns Hopkins Hospital, a spokesman at University Hospital said.

Dowdy, 59, is charged with conspiring to accept a \$25,000 bribe from a Maryland home improvement firm for his help in stopping a Justice Department probe on the firm. He has suffered from back trouble and a pulmonary infection in the past year.

The veteran congressman's illness has forced six delays of his trial.

The morning session of the trial saw the continued cross-examination of Leonard Wilson, 35, of Jasper, Ala., who has testified he was with Dowdy the whole time he was at an Atlanta airport. The government says the \$25,000 was turned over to Dowdy at the airport Sept. 22, 1965. Wilson has testified he didn't see the legislator receive a briefcase.

The judge conferred with the prosecution and defense at the bench briefly during the afternoon before dismissing the jury until Thursday.

The judge then recessed the trial until Thursday.

Dowdy, who underwent a medical examination at Bethesda Naval Hospital earlier this year to determine his ability to stand trial, was treated in Texas earlier before he returned to his Washington congressional duties in March.

Traphagan to give Political Forum

Insurance's side of the rising cost of coverage will be represented today in a Political Forum presentation at A&M by William M. Traphagan.

Traphagan is Southwestern regional manager of the Insurance Information Institute.

His talk on "The Rising Cost of Insurance" will be the last Political Forum noon series for the fall semester, announced Chairman Paul Turner. Traphagan will speak in the Memorial Student Center Assembly Room in the public-free Forum series.

Former district manager of the institute's Cincinnati office, Traphagan has been with I.I.I. since September, 1967. The Ohio State University graduate was an administrative assistant five years with the Ohio State Medical Association.

His B.S. degree at OSU was in business administration, with majors in advertising and public relations.

Apollo 15 movie shown at physics colloquium

A movie on the Apollo 15 moon mission will be shown at 7 p.m. Thursday as part of the physics colloquium series at A&M.

Prof. J. T. Kent said the movie, "Apollo 15 in the Mountains," will be shown in Physics Room 145. The public is invited.

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