

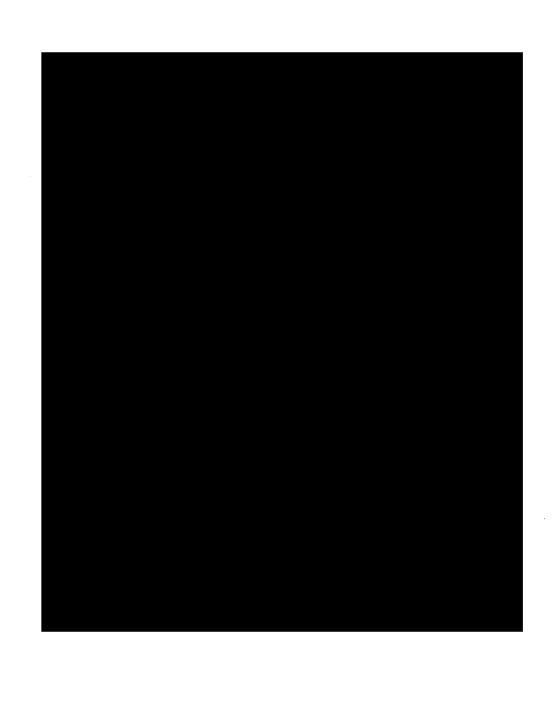
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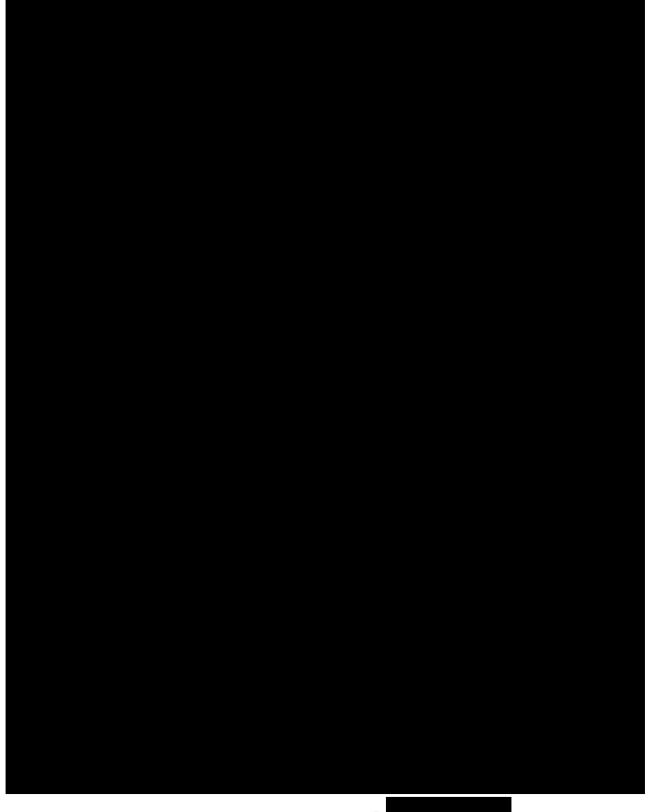
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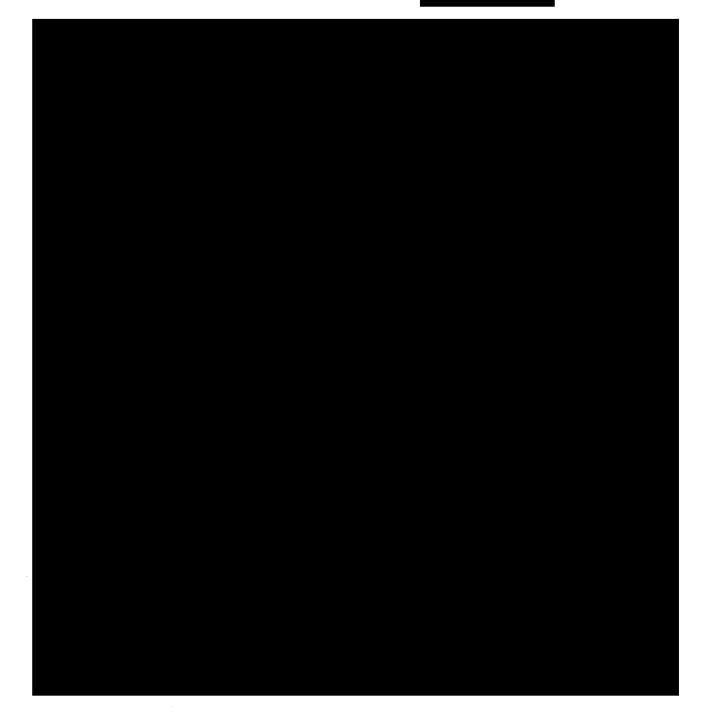
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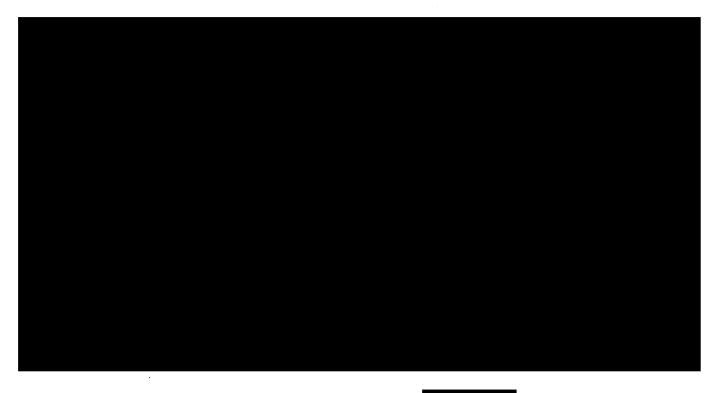
LUNA-9 SOFT-LANDS ON THE MOON

The USSR's Luna-9 achieved its primary mission of soft-landing on the moon and photographing the lunar surface. It was the 12th soft-landing vehicle to be launched since the beginning of 1963, but only the fourth to reach the moon and the first to land a pay-load gently on its sur-In demonstrating the feasibility of this technique, Luna-9 probably signaled inauguration of a vigorous Soviet program of instrumented lunar exploration as a prelude to manned lunar landings.

During seven data transmissions totaling eight hours, Luna-9 sent panoramic facsimile pictures of the surrounding landscape. The transmissions began shortly after the probe landed on 4 February and were discontinued on 6 February when, according to TASS, the electrical power supply was exhausted.

In addition to the facsimile equipment, Luna-9 carried instrumentation to collect scientific data on the lunar environment.

TASS announced that Luna-9 had "successfully completed its research program on the moon" at 5:30 p.m. EST on 6 February.



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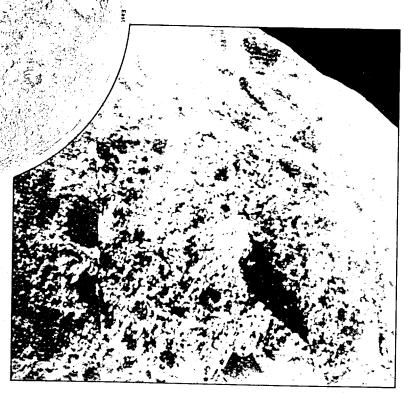
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