

lems of oceanographic research. The congress will open with a reception on the evening of 30 August, and the first scientific session will be held the morning of 31 August. The meeting is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The registration fee of \$10 covers program materials, a book of abstracts of the technical papers, and admission to several of the social events.

A preliminary announcement of the AAAS International Oceanographic Congress was published in *Science* 27 March. Further details on the congress and final revisions of the program will be printed in *News of Science* in the issue of 14 August.

### Forest Reserve Program

Since 1947 the Society of American Foresters has been endeavoring to locate and permanently protect representative units of virgin or old-growth forest for purposes of future research in silviculture, forest management, and related ecological fields. Such forest units, called "natural areas," must be at least 20 acres in size; no upper size limit has been set, but for purposes of the program areas of more than 1000 acres would not be needed. A single type of forest growth within each area must cover at least 10 acres. Timber-cutting and grazing are prohibited on natural areas, and use of these forests for recreational purposes by the general public is discouraged.

The Society of American Foresters has recognized 156 forest-cover types for the United States as a whole, 106 in the East and 50 in the West. To date the society has been instrumental in protecting 49 cover types in the East and 36 in the West. Fifty-four percent of the 156 cover types are presently found within the approved natural areas. However, only 46 percent of the eastern cover types are protected, and the percentage is still lower for the southeastern region.

To assist the society in this program, Resources for the Future, Inc., has granted funds which will make possible a field investigation in the states of North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The society will appreciate the assistance of anyone who knows of forests in those states which warrant consideration as natural areas. Anyone having such information should communicate with John F. Shanklin, Chairman, Committee on Natural Areas, Society of American Foresters, Mills

Building, 17th and Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington 6, D.C. If possible, the information should include: (i) the names of both the state and county, with specific data on actual location within the county; (ii) the area (in acres) of each type of forest growth; and (iii) the name and address of the owner.

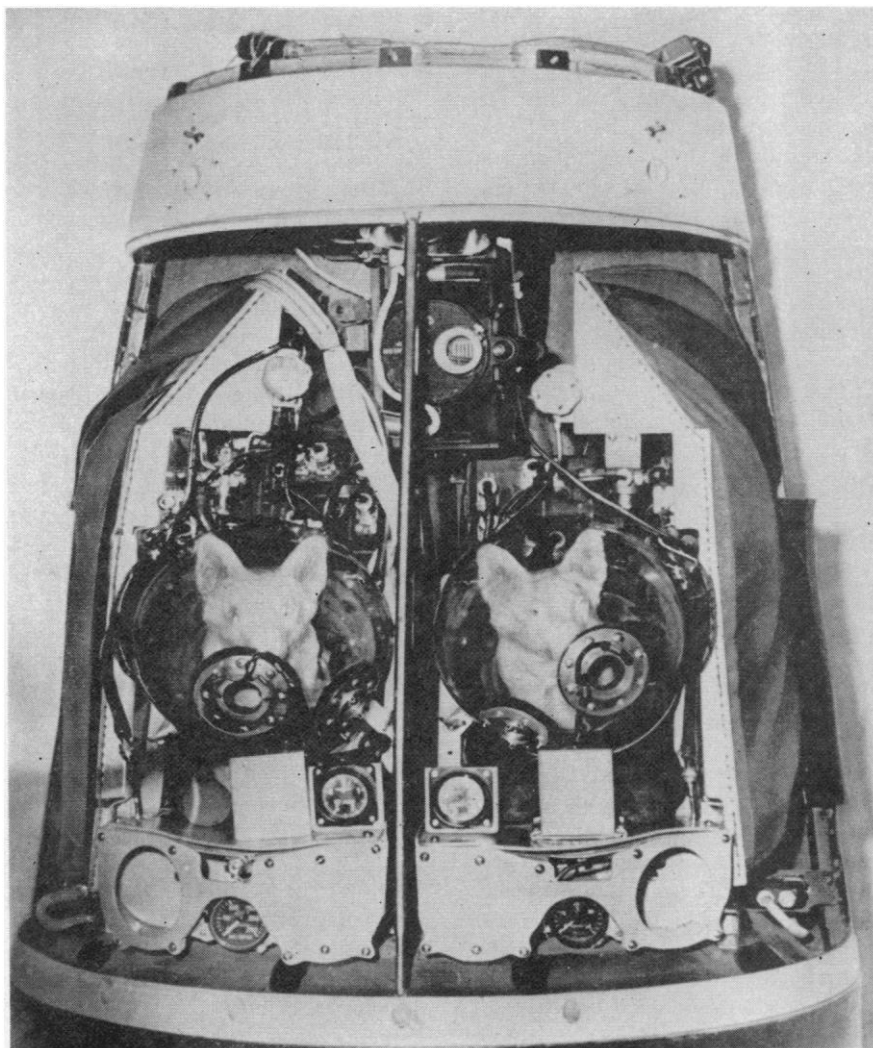
### Rabbit and Two Dogs Recovered from Space

The Soviet Union sent two dogs and a rabbit into space on 2 July and successfully recovered them. The payload of more than 4400 pounds (this includes the weight of the animals) was said to be the heaviest yet put into space. No altitude for the successful shot was given in the Soviet announcement.

Tass, the official Soviet press agency, said that the instruments aboard the

missile had sent back information on the animals' reaction to weightlessness as well as information on the ultraviolet part of the solar spectrum, the structure of the ionosphere, and the direction and speed of air streams at various altitudes.

The condition of the animals was reported to have been good on their return. One of the dogs, whose name means "courageous" or "daring," had been used in two earlier flights, according to the announcement. When the launching and recovery were revealed, 4 days after the event, Soviet commentators cited the significance of the flight for eventual human travel in space. "This has proved we can bring animals back alive," one commentator said. "It means much in the preparation for space flights by human beings." None of the radio and press announcements mentioned the successful launching and recovery in this country of the monkeys Able and Baker.



Models were used in this Soviet rocket chamber designed to carry a pair of dogs aloft for short space flights. The chamber, enclosed in a parachute pack, was exhibited at an industrial achievement fair in Moscow last February. A similar chamber was presumably used 2 July when two dogs and a rabbit were sent into space and successfully recovered.