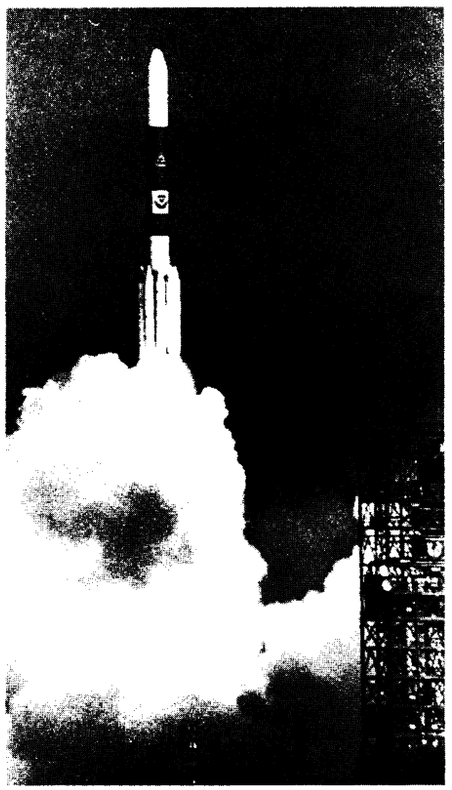
about possible sabotage, such as a radioed command from an external source, Russell refused to rule it out. But other NASA officials emphasized that there was no evidence for it whatsoever.

Meanwhile, following what is now a familiar ritual, flight directors impounded all data on the launch. NASA's acting administrator William Graham flew to the Kennedy Space Center to confer with launch officials and program managers. And Rear Admiral Richard Truly, head of NASA's Office of Space Flight, appointed an eight-member board to investigate the accident; the chairman will be Lawrence J. Ross, director of space flight systems at NASA's Lewis Research Center in Cleveland. Truly emphasized that none of the panel members were involved with the preparation or launch of this particular mission. The board will be assisted by the organization already in place at NASA headquarters to investigate the Challenger accident.



Wide World

Moments before disaster. *The lift-off appeared normal for 71 seconds*

Ironically, the agency had already implemented new procedures for the Delta launch based on the lessons learned from the Challenger experience. Engineers made thousands of hours of additional checks on the Delta. The launch was delayed for 2 days so that technicians could check out a minor fuel leak. And project managers were required to sign documents certifying that the vehicle was ready for launch, instead of giving the go-ahead orally.

Outside NASA, the most immediate impact of the Delta failure will be felt at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The primary mission of the GOES series of satellites is to provide continuous monitoring of storm systems over the entire Western Hemisphere. The GOES-G satellite that was lost was intended to replace a previous GOES that had prematurely failed in June of 1984. A companion, GOES-H, has been scheduled for launch in October and could conceivably be launched earlier—if there is a way to do so. Beyond that comes a new series of five satellites known collectively as GOES-NEXT. The first of these will not be ready until 1989 at the earliest.

In the meantime, however, the weather service is relying on its one remaining geosynchronous satellite, GOES-6, which was launched in April 1983. Its design lifetime is five years, which means that it can be expected to fall silent sometime in 1988. Thus, if GOES-H cannot be safely launched, the weather service could have a yearlong gap in its coverage in the late 1980's.

Much the same story also holds for NOAA's polar-orbiting weather satellites. The next one in that series had been planned for launch this summer. At this point, however, it is not clear exactly what will be available to launch it. ■

M. MITCHELL WALDROP

Rockefeller Doubles Third World Effort

The Rockefeller Foundation has announced a "major revision" of its programs for the developing world. The new initiative will involve a doubling of its contributions to between $250 million and $300 million over the next 5 years.

Rockefeller president Richard W. Lyman said at press conferences in New York and Washington that the strategy is designed to narrow the growing technology gap between poor and industrialized nations. Particular emphasis will be on smoothing the technical and administrative obstacles that threaten to put poor countries at increasing disadvantage as the latest revolution in fields such as biotechnology and microelectronics sweeps the developed world.

Agriculture, health, and contraception are the substantive focuses of the new initiative. In every case, the attempt will be to foster research on technologies that are culturally and environmentally appropriate, adaptable, inexpensive, and easy to use. In agriculture, this means more research on basic food crops such as millet, rice, and sorghum; in health, the focus is on "neglected" diseases such as schistosomiasis and childhood diarrhea; in contraception, there will be more research on technologies (including male contraceptives) not requiring physician involvement.

Integral to the program will be social marketing campaigns and the development of "delivery technologies." Few details have yet been worked out, but action programs will include systematic attempts to introduce the long-acting implantable contraceptive Norplant in an Indian province and an African country. The foundation decided not to rebuild a major field staff but to work instead on helping countries develop indigenous competence, both scientific and administrative.

Foundation officials are particularly interested in studying the effect of "gender bias" in technology—for example, farm machinery that is designed for the use of men who have access to credit when in fact the bulk of food crops are raised by women. Another major area of concern is the impact of international economic policies on technology transfer—including the problems posed by licensing, patent, and trade practices.

According to the foundation, organized science is widening the technology gap by focusing on "industrial-country competition" and not upon "developing-country conditions." Lyman pointed in particular to a recent article by National Science Foundation director Erich Bloch (*Science*, 2 May, p. 595) which discusses research exclusively in terms of commercial and military competitiveness. Said the Rockefeller program director, Kenneth Prewitt: "the fact that this [the developing world] is not a priority in the current administration cannot but help emphasize that it ought to be a major emphasis for foundations." ■

CONSTANCE HOLDEN

Comings and Goings

Frederic E. Wakeman, Jr., professor of history and former chairman of the Center for Chinese Studies at the University of California at Berkeley, has been named president of the Social Science Research Council. He succeeds **Kenneth Prewitt**, who is now at the Rockefeller Foundation. The American Council of Learned Societies will also have a new president, **Stanley Katz**, a legal historian currently at Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School.