REPLY TO QUERY

from NASA Headquarters, Washington, D. C.

An investigation is underway to determine the cause of a problem that occurred in the launch on a Scout vehicle of Explorer XXXVII (SOLRAD) on March 5, 1968.

The orbit achieved by Explorer XXXVII will permit a successful mission, although it is not the circular orbit which was planned. Deviation from the planned orbit appears to have been caused by a reduction of chamber pressure on the first stage of the Scout vehicle.

If the investigation indicates that the incident was other than a 'random' one, every effort will be made to remedy the problem before the Scout is used for future payloads.

Upcoming launches which might be affected by the investigation of the Scout anomaly are ESRO II-A and Reentry F.

March 28, 1968