

### Tiros-Type Photos To Save Millions Yearly

Washington - (Science Service) - Spotting storms from outer space, such as the typhoon photographed from Tiros, will save U.S. industry and Government millions upon millions of dollars yearly.

Advance warning of a severe storm's approach will allow those in its predicted path to take precautionary measures that will save lives and forestall extensive property damage.

The typhoon photographs taken from the experimental weather satellite mark a "major milestone" in weather forecasting, Dr. F. W. Reichelderfer, chief of the U.S. Weather Bureau, told Science Service.

Scientists Excited  
He said Bureau scientists were "tremendously excited" about the possibilities of spotting undetected storms from space when weather satellites become operational rather than experimental, as Tiros is.

Hurricane forecasts, for instance, instead of warning of the threat of a possible hurricane in the Gulf of Mexico would be definite as to the presence of a tropical storm and its location. Reconnaissance airplanes could be sent directly to the spot, instead of having to search a wide area to find the storm.

Tornadoes also, when photographed from above, might show some characteristic that could be used to spot them before the twisting funnels were seen from earth-bound stations.

"The detail on photographs from Tiros at the present time is enough that there is hope they will show conditions in tornado situations that can be recognized and used to identify and detect the deadly storms," Dr. Reichelderfer said.

Given Incentive  
He noted that the success of the equipment in the Tiros satellite, which functioned beyond the expectation of its designers, gave the Weather Bureau a strong case to strengthen and speed up the weather satellite program. One problem, he said, was to make the information gathered by satellites available as soon as possible to weather stations around the country.

Communications satellites to reflect radio waves carrying this information would solve the problem.

Dr. Reichelderfer said that the "major accomplishment" of Tiros in taking pictures of earth's weather patterns confirmed the prediction made in 1954 by Dr. Harry Wexler, the Bureau's director of meteorological research, that such information could be gathered by satellites.

### 14-Month Fire War In Mine Described

Pittsburgh (Science Service) The battle against a coal mine fire at Ratan, N.M., cost \$750,000, 3,480 man-hours and lots of sweat. It lasted 14 months.

W. K. Dennison Jr., a superintendent for the Kaiser Steel Corp., described the fight at the American Mining congress here. First, he said, air had to be sealed away from the mine fire. Still an estimated 28,000,000 cubic feet of air remained behind the seals.

So 1,300 tons of dry ice was used to produce carbon dioxide to try to smother the fire. Then the air seals were slowly moved toward the fire. Crewmen had to have their own air supplies and lifelines to prevent their being lost in the smoke.

The fire area was then flooded. The area is still sealed from the rest of the mine. The fire area was confined to an area about 400 by 600 feet.

### Iowa Most Often Hit by Tornadoes

St. Louis - (Science Service) - Iowa was the state most frequently hit by tornadoes from 1916 to 1950, a U.S. Weather Bureau climatologist has reported here.

Lothar A. Joos of Champaign, Ill., said that current averages, however, placed Iowa behind Illinois, Missouri and Nebraska in tornado occurrence. He told the American Meteorological Society meeting here that the recent sharp increase in tornado frequency resulted from better reporting of the occurrence of these several local storms, not from a detectable increase in actual frequency.

A recent survey showed that there were 114,000 domesticated reindeer in the Province of Finnmark in northern Norway, last year.



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