

# Pluto-bound . . . and Earth-bound?

LOS ANGELES, Thursday. — The Jupiter-bound US Pioneer 10 spacecraft heads for unexplored reaches of the solar system today.

It crosses the orbit of Mars — the goal of the longest previous space missions — after travelling 155 million miles on its 620-million mile journey to Jupiter.

The Pioneer has passed the area just inside the orbit of Mars which has claimed two spacecraft bound for the fourth planet and caused a third to

halt communications for seven hours.

The Pioneer, launched from Cape Kennedy, on March 2, is scheduled to complete its journey to Jupiter on December 2, 1973.

After photographing and conducting scientific experiments as it passes by the largest planet, it is expected to become the first man-made object to leave the solar system when — 15 years later — it crosses the orbit of Pluto.

(AAP)

LONDON, Thursday.

— Delegates from 11 countries are expected at a conference here this weekend to discuss international co-operation in the research of unidentified flying objects (UFO).

Organiser of the conference is Contact, a UFO research organisation with members in 21 countries.

Contact's stated aims include acting as a bridge between people on earth

and "any future arrivals from other worlds."

The organisers stress that they are not in any way connected with, or wish to be connected to, the "crank" or "cultist" elements which are so often associated with the "UFO phenomena."

Delegates are expected from Belgium, Cyprus, France, Italy, Mexico, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Venezuela and Zambia as well as Britain.

(AAP-Reuter)