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### **Oz - Warning: Another Big Antarctica Balloon**

From: **Dr Ron Barnett** <[Prauf@aol.com](mailto:Prauf@aol.com)>  
Date: Fri, 14 Jan 2000 05:25:25 -0500 (EST)  
Fwd Date: Fri, 14 Jan 2000 07:09:47 -0500  
Subject: Oz - Warning: Another Big Antarctica Balloon

Oz & ASIA DATA RESEARCH  
Phenomena Research Australia

EBK Researchers,

The following data is from AP and apart from being full of interesting flight data; it also serves as an "Advance Warning" to all EBK Southern Hemisphere Researchers (EBKSHR ;-), especially our South American friends. Note, the weather in Antarctica has been very good and this balloon is very large and going very high. When the telescope is cut loose this balloon, if it does not reduced to plan, has the potential to go anywhere below 20 Degrees Lat South (-20) as a UFO!

It was launched on Monday, Jan. 10th, 2000. Due back (cut) by Jan. 29th, 2000.

I am sorry, I have no Web Site to link you to, so I have not <sniped> the warning, it's all there in full.

\*\*\*

"Scientists have launched a huge telescope carrying balloon over Antarctica for a detailed study of solar flares, the violent eruptions of radiation and atomic particles that billow from the surface of the sun.

The telescope, about the size of a minivan, was sent aloft Monday from McMurdo Station in Antarctica, and should stay high in the thin, dry atmosphere over the continent for 15 to 20 days.

It is now summer in Antarctica and the sun shines 24 hours a day. High temperatures are around 14 above zero.

The sun is now also entering the peak of its 11-year flare cycle -- called the solar maximum -- marked by large numbers of sunspots, solar flares, coronal mass ejections and other activities.

Physicist David M. Rust, leader of the team from the Johns Hopkins University's Applied Physics Laboratory, will have to wait several weeks to determine if the project achieves its goal of providing the sharpest solar pictures ever taken.

The telescope, called Flare Genesis, has a 32-inch mirror and is designed to show features on the sun's surface as small as 100 miles across, 50 times the resolution of ground-based solar telescopes, the Sun reports.

Solar flares can disrupt radio and television broadcasts, as well as electrical transmissions, and threaten the lives of astronauts.

A 1989 flare knocked out power across Quebec and probably gave some airline passengers a dose of radiation equal to that of a chest X-ray.

Sharper pictures of solar storms could explain the mechanisms behind solar flares, produced when lines of magnetic force on the sun's surface kink and snap, or abruptly connect to other lines, Rust says.

Rust began his quest in 1991 when the National Aeronautics and Space Administration canceled a planned orbiting solar telescope.

He borrowed a \$12 million telescope from the Air Force and APL built a floating observatory to carry it to an altitude of 23 miles, above 99 percent of Earth's blurring atmosphere.

The scientists' first try failed in 1996 when the telescope lost an antenna and photos were blurred. Then the telescope separated from the balloon and wasn't recovered for five months.

The telescope was rebuilt and shipped back to New Zealand to await another launch, but its crate was left outside and rain tarnished the instrument's 32-inch mirror.

More recently, a planned Christmas launch had to be canceled because of unfavorable wind."

\*\*\*

Regards to all,

Dr Ron BARNETT  
Deputy Director  
PRA

NOTE: (c) 2000, Associated Press

THANKS TO: - Australian, AP  
- Johns Hopkins University  
- GAA Melbourne University

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