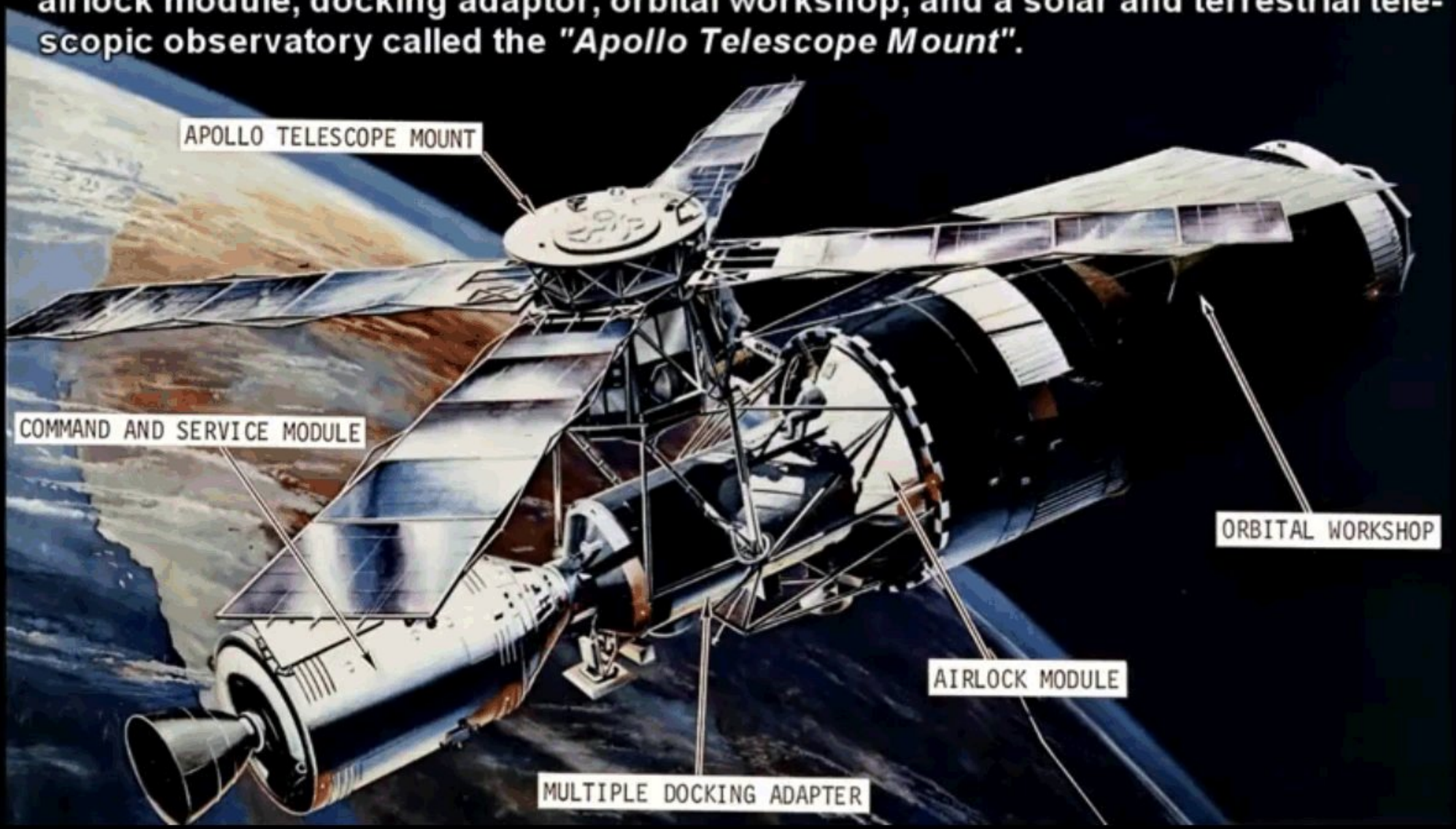
"Skylab" was a 100-ton orbital research and observation platform consisting of an airlock module, docking adaptor, orbital workshop, and a solar and terrestrial telescopic observatory called the *"Apollo Telescope Mount"*.



2141 Magnified

SKYLAB-3 SATELLITE SIGHTING DATA

compiled 1977 June 08
James E. Oberg

EVENT: SIGHTING OF 'BRIGHT SATELLITE' BY ALL THREE SKYLAB-3 ASTRONAUTS (ALAN BEAN, OWEN GARRIOTT, JACK LOUSMA).
DATE: SEPTEMBER 20, 1973 (DAY 263) AT APPROXIMATELY 1645 GMT
LOC.: S.W. INDIAN OCEAN
REV: SKYLAB REVOLUTION 1863
ORBIT: ASCENDING NODES (8 REVS APART)
NBECL 027.3W 0806:18GMT
NBECT 216.7W 2031:25GMT
period= 93.134 MINUTES
WS/R = 23.67 DEGREES

THE SECOND MANNED SKYLAB VISIT WAS WITHIN FIVE DAYS OF RETURNING TO EARTH AFTER A RECORD-BREAKING 59 DAY EXPEDITION. CREW HAD AWOKEN HAD 0700 GMT AND WOULD GO TO SLEEP AT 2300. THEY HAD EATEN LUNCH IN THE WARDROOM AND WERE DOING A 'PROCEDURES REVIEW' IN THE WARDROOM PRIOR TO BEGINNING A NEW SERIES OF EXPERIMENTS IN THE AFTERNOON.

DURING THE SIGHTING, THE CREW WAS OUT OF CONTACT WITH THE GROUND. THE ON-BOARD TAPE RECORDER WAS NOT TURNED ON. THE FIRST RECORDED MENTION OF THE INCIDENT WAS ON AN AIR-TO-GROUND LINK SOME 4.5 HOURS AFTER THE EVENT. GARRIOTT LOGGED FOUR PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN OF THE OBJECT.

DEBRIEFING COMMENTS ARE ATTACHED. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT THE 'A-CHANNEL' TAPE RECORDER WAS NOT ON. TAPE 263-05/D-550 HAD RUN OUT AT 1547:56 AND THE NEXT TAPE, D-551, WAS NOT ACTIVATED UNTIL APPROXIMATELY 1811:20.

AIR-TO-GROUND TAPE 263-10/T-671 Page 9 of 14/5207 (excerpts)

approx 2106GMT
LOUSMA DID YOU TELL HIM ABOUT THAT SATELLITE WE SAW?
BEAN YES, WE SAW A GREAT SATELLITE. WE DIDN'T KNOW IF WE TOLD YOU ABOUT IT.
LOUSMA THE CLOSEST AND BRIGHTEST ONE WE'VE SEEN.
BEAN HUGE ONE.
LOUSMA WE'VE SEEN SEVERAL. IT WAS A RED ONE.
CAPCOM NO, YOU MAY HAVE TOLD SOMEBODY, BUT IT WASN'T THIS TEAM. I DON'T REMEMBER HEARING ABOUT IT.
LOUSMA I GUESS WE DIDN'T REPORT IT. IT WAS REFLECTING IN RED LIGHT. AND OSCILLATING A+,OH, COUNTING ITS PERIOD OF BRIGHTEST TO DIMMEST, ABOUT TEN SECONDS. IT LED US INTO SUNSET. THAT WAS ABOUT THREE REVS AGO, I THINK. SOMETHING LIKE THAT, WASN'T IT, OWEN?
(NO ANSWER) Other topics then were discussed.

Lodge says it followed

JSC-08478

SKYLAB 1/3 TECHNICAL CREW DEBRIEFING

PREPARED BY

TRAINING OFFICE

CREW TRAINING AND SIMULATION DIVISION

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National Aeronautics and Space Administration

LYNDON B. JOHNSON SPACE CENTER

Houston, Texas

OCTOBER 4, 1973

20.0 VISUAL SIGHTINGS

LOUSMA Let's talk about visual sightings. Any comments on countdown. You saw your way to the booster or you didn't see that. Visual sighting no problem there.

BEAN You might want to talk about the visual sightings on that orbit when Owen and Jack saw the satellite.

LOUSMA Yes, let's go through countdown. Any visual sightings on countdown that were significant? We saw the swing arm go away and all that kind of thing.

Powered Flight: I watched the booster protector cover go off and lots of flashes and debris and everything in every separation, but that's all norminal. During orbit: -

GARRIOTT Do you want to talk about that satellite?

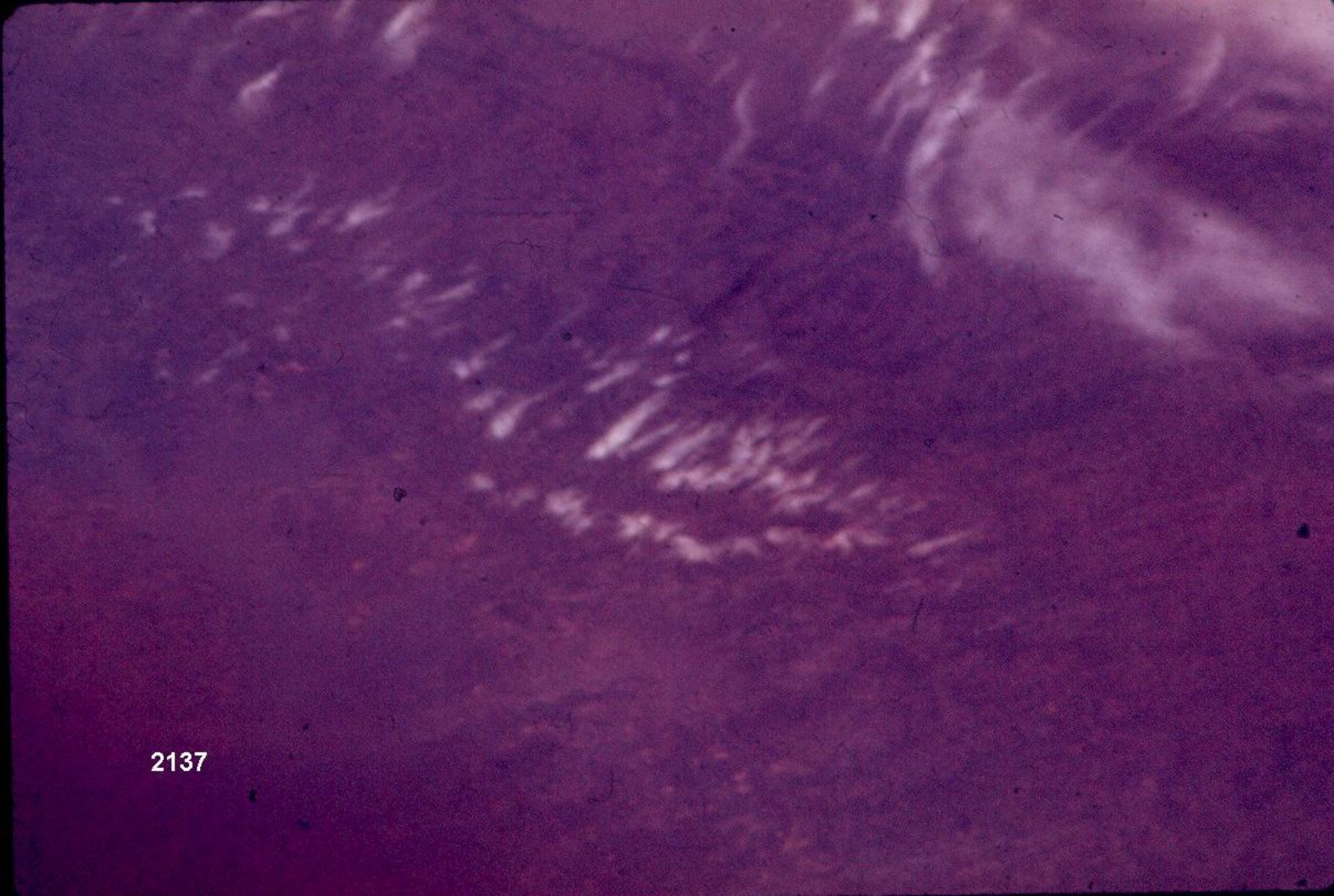
LOUSMA I saw a couple of satellites that appeared like a satellite would on the Earth. I saw one that was not like one you would see on Earth, so why don't you mention it.

GARRIOTT Okay, about a week or 10 days before recovery and we were still waiting for information to be supplied to us about the indentification. Jack first noticed this rather large red star out the wardroom window. Upon close examination, it was much brighter than Jupiter or any of the other planets. It had

GARRIOTT (CONT'D) a reddish hue to it, even though it was well above the horizon. The light from the Sun was not passing close to the Earth's limb at the time. We observed it for about 10 minutes prior to sunset. It was slowly rotating because it had a variation in brightness with a 10-second period. As I was saying, we observed it for about 10 minutes, until we went into darkness, and it also followed us into darkness about 5-seconds later. From the 5- to 10-second delay in it's disappearance we surmised that it was not more than 30 to 50 nautical miles from our location. From it's original position in the wardroom window, it did not move more than 10 or 20 degrees over the 10 minutes or so that we watched it. It's orbit was very close to that of our own. We never saw it on any - earlier or succeeding orbits and we'd be quite interested in having its identification established. It's all debriefed in terms of time on channel A, so the percise timing and location can be picked up from there.

LOUSMA Okay, other visual sightings was the one out the wardroom window. That sunrise or sunset which finally led us to the RCS leak in the command module. It disappeared like thousands and thousands of stars out there; all of them different sizes and drifting along the X-axis. The one that we already mentioned. The one right after insertion where we saw the leak in the same manner of the RCS streaming towards


001 National Geographic Society, ESRI, and WorldSat.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2139 X


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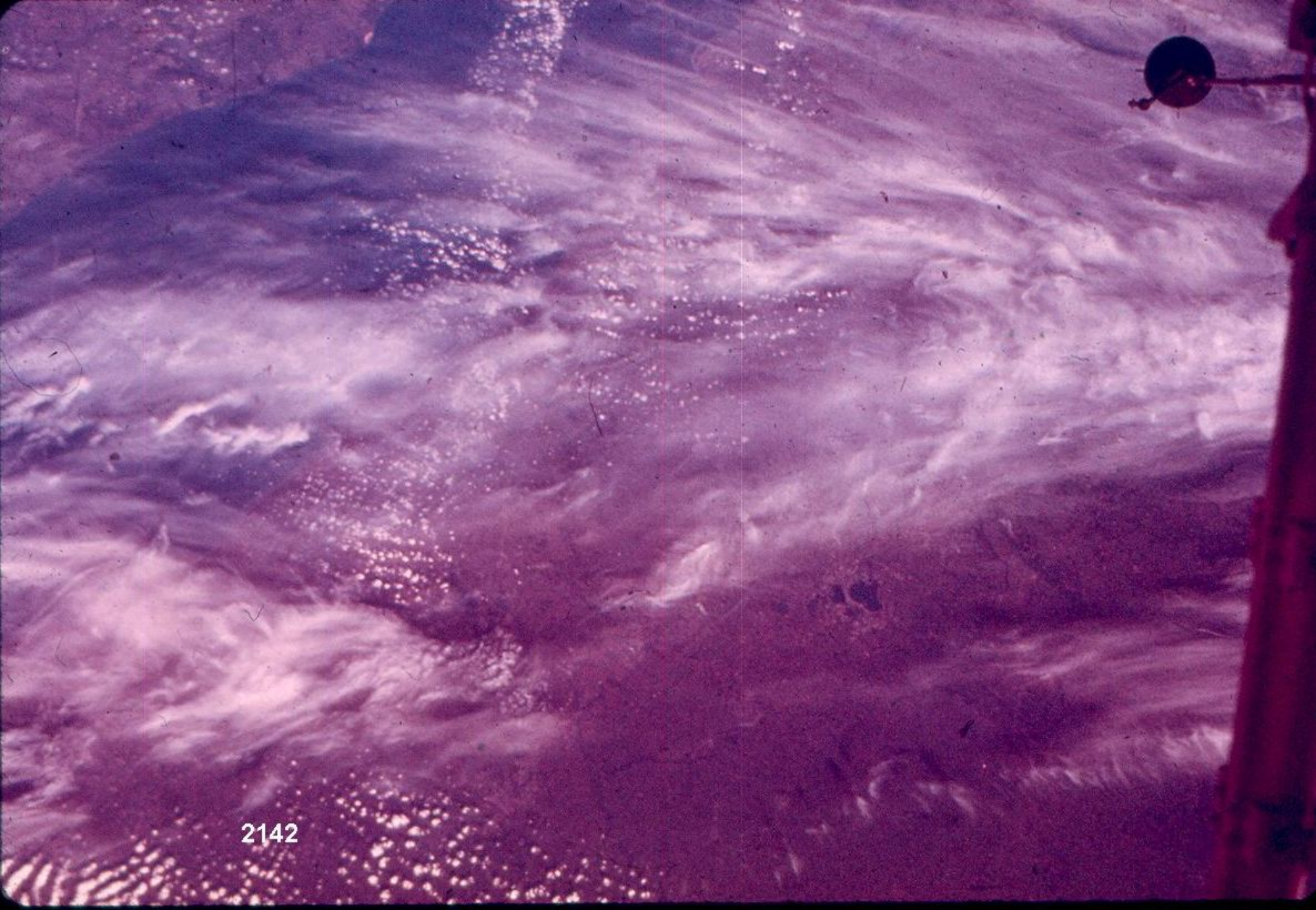
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RECONSTRUCTION OF POSSIBLE SPACE UFO FLIGHT PATH RELATIVE TO SKYLAB-3