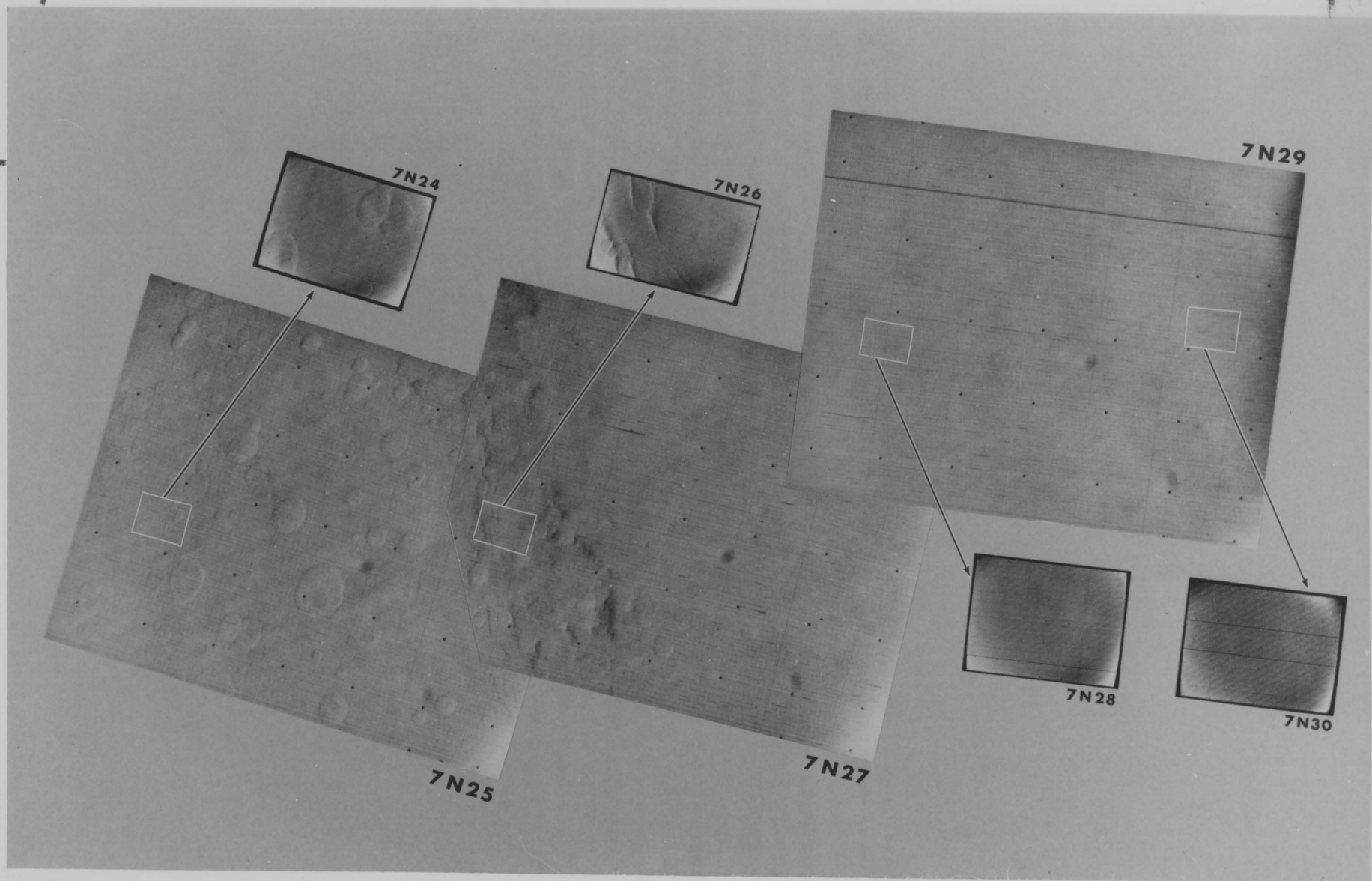
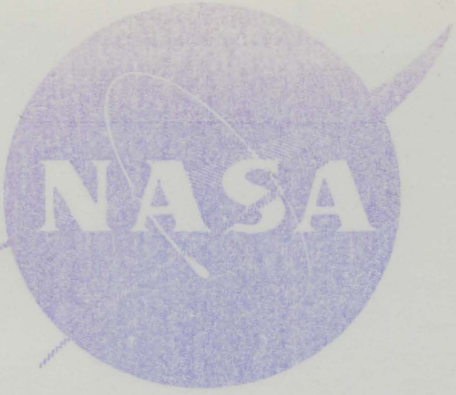


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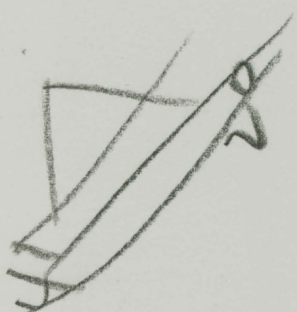
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WASHINGTON, D. C. -- Floor of the bright circular "desert" Hellas is the largest area of featureless terrain yet identified on Mars. Mariner 7 took the three overlapping wide-angle pictures and the four nested high resolution pictures on August 5, 1969. Hellas, centered at about 40° south latitude (roughly the center of the inscribed location of frame 7N28), is bordered by the west (left) by the heavily cratered Hesperontus region. The 130by-350-kilometer transitional zone (left portion of 7N27) also is well-cratered. Narrow-angle picture 7N26 clearly shows at high resolution the ridges of the Hellas-Hesperontus boundary, indicating that the surface is indeed visible and unobscured by haze or fog. Yet, no craters appear in that frame. Almost totally featureless are narrow-angle frames 7N28 and 7N30 (best resolution of about 300 yards) deep in the Hellas region. For comparison, the lighting is similar to that in Mariner 6 frames 17 through 21 (P-10332).



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Condor lectures

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