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The President's Daily Brief

February 12, 1974

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USSR

The first of four Mars probes launched last summer--Mars 4--passed within about 900 miles of the planet on February 10, and a second--Mars 5--will reach the vicinity today. It is assumed that a capsule containing instruments was separated from the first probe and landed on the planet's surface. Mars 5 may also attempt to land a capsule.

Two other Soviet probes will arrive in the vicinity of Mars on March 9 and 12. These vehicles, designated Mars 6 and 7, may go into orbit around the planet to perform experiments and serve as data-relay satellites for the instruments on the surface.

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