

ATLAS MISSILE LAUNCHED:

At Cape Canaveral, Florida, America's No. 1 rocket base - the huge Atlas intercontinental guided missile is successfully launched. Ninety feet long and weighing 100 tons, the Atlas can be armed with a hydrogen warhead - and it's nicknamed "the Beast" by its builders.

This time, the Beast is setting out on a mere 600-mile trip over the Atlantic - but maximum-range tests are planned for later this year. When its full power is unleashed, the Atlas is expected to fly 5,500 miles in about 25 minutes - and thanks to its complex electronic brain, to plant its devastating load accurately in the target area.