

58/14.ROCKET AWAY!

Atlas was ready for launching. And for the first time pictures of operations in the control room were allowed by the U.S. Department of Defense. Tense atmosphere; taut nerves; Everybody praying for success.

To onlookers at Cape Canaveral it looked like a triumph. Stage one of the flight went perfectly. Nothing went wrong while the rocket remained in sight. Not till later did the experts learn that something had failed. The 100-ton missile, they believed, destroyed itself. But undismayed, America prepared to start again.