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Comet Howard-Koomen-Michels (1979 XI) collided with the sun between 2200 and 2300 hours (Universal Time), 30 August 1979. (Upper frame) Recorded at 2049 UT by a satellite coronagraph, the comet is seen falling toward the sun with coma at 3 solar radii elongation. (Lower frame) Collision’s aftermath at 0821 UT, 31 August, with cometary debris scattered millions of kilometers into the solar corona. The central portion of each frame, out to 2.5 solar radii, is shadowed by the coronagraph’s occulting mechanism; the solar disk has been added in photographic processing. See page 1097. [Computer color enhancement by S. A. Mango, Digital Image Processing Laboratory, Naval Research Laboratory, Washington, D.C.]
Editor's Summary

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