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COVER Test flight in Earth's atmosphere of balloon and gondola system similar to two placed in the atmosphere of Venus in June 1985 by the VEGA spacecraft. These were the first balloons to float in the atmosphere of another planet. Gondola instruments measured in situ meteorological parameters; a world-wide network of 20 ground-based antennas monitored the Venus winds by means of radio signals transmitted by the balloons. See pages 1407-1425. [Photo: V. M. Linkin, Space Research Institute, Moscow, U.S.S.R.; emblem: R. A. Preston, Jet Propulsion Laboratory, California Institute of Technology, Pasadena, CA 91125]

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