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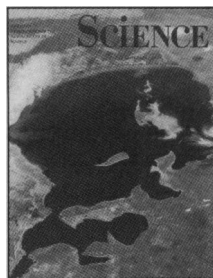
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**COVER** Looking south at the Aral Sea, a large, saline lake in the Soviet Union, from the Space Shuttle (6 August 1985). Sea level fell 11.5 meters between 1960 and 1985, exposing extensive salt-covered areas that appear white. The Amu Dar'ya Delta (light blue) is at top. A salt cloud rises from the sea's southeast coast (upper left). See page 1170. [Photograph courtesy of Michael Helfert, NASA-JSC, mission 51F(24), roll 36, frame 59]

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