

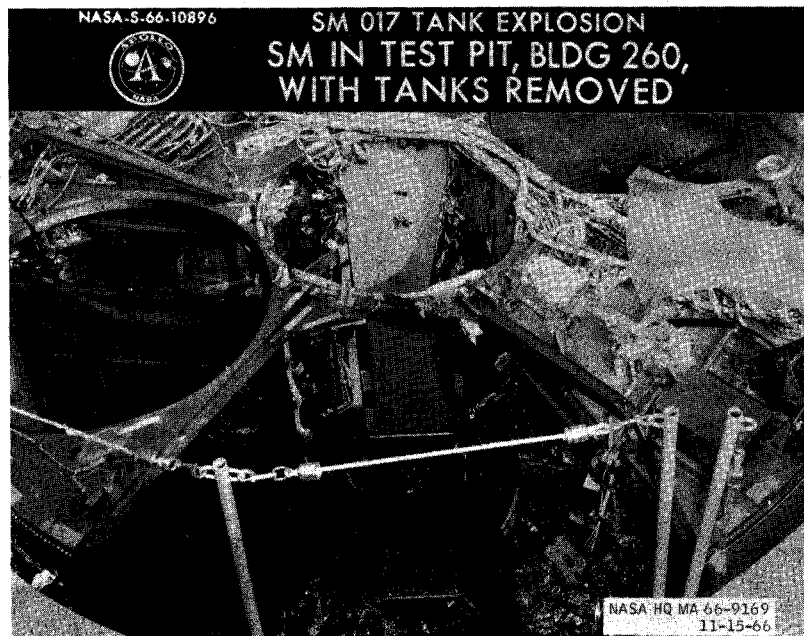


FIGURE 25

pressure will, in fact, induce stress corrosion in titanium. We found that we had to change the Service Module tanks on all of our spacecraft that had gone through this test cycle in order to be sure that they were safe.

Mr. FULTON. On the possible or probable change of insulation, couldn't you almost judge that you should get started on changing to the fiberglass insulation which is, of course, really flame resistant? In the tests we saw at Houston, there was a world of difference between that type of insulation and the type currently used. My point is when you can see that you are going to have to make some sort of change in insulation, why aren't we getting started so there will be no further delay on this equipment?

Dr. MUELLER. Mr. Fulton, there are studies being made of the changes that are required in order to make the spacecraft safe. Those studies are underway and we have felt that it would be better to understand the total problem before beginning to solve it piecemeal. Now, that doesn't say that we aren't going forward with the development of fiberglass replacements. It just, however, takes time to develop sources and to carry through the qualification testing of these sources. We would expect to be able to report to you again on that some time after the end of this month.

Mr. FULTON. When I saw that Rube Goldberg complex of wires in this particular illustration, it certainly pointed up to me the amount of change and the amount of time that might be necessary.

Dr. MUELLER. I understand and it is of concern to us. I might point out that this is an example of the kinds of things you learn in