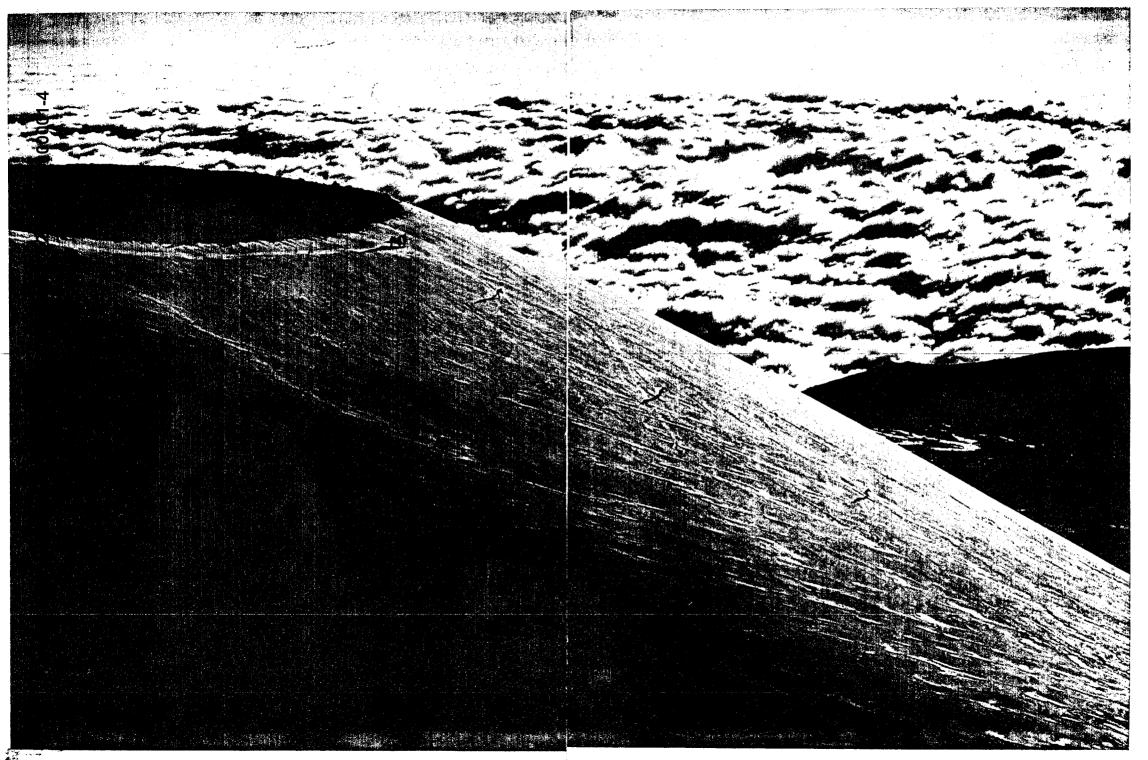


In the moonscape of lava cones atop Hawaii's Mauna Kea volcano, the U. S., United Kingdom, Canada, and France have raised a cluster of observatories. Nearly three miles in altitude, they stand above almost half the earth's atmosphere and 90 percent of its water vapor, excellent for ground-based

infrared telescopes. The island location is free from atmospheric turbulence induced by landmasses, as well as light pollution from cities. Logistic support can be shared. A real problem for astronomers, however, is that too few such telescopes are available for the research that needs to be done.



Ice has replaced the fiery breath of Mauna Kea, asleep for 3.600 years. One of its many

cones, snow sheathed in winter months. draws these skiers for a three-day February meet.