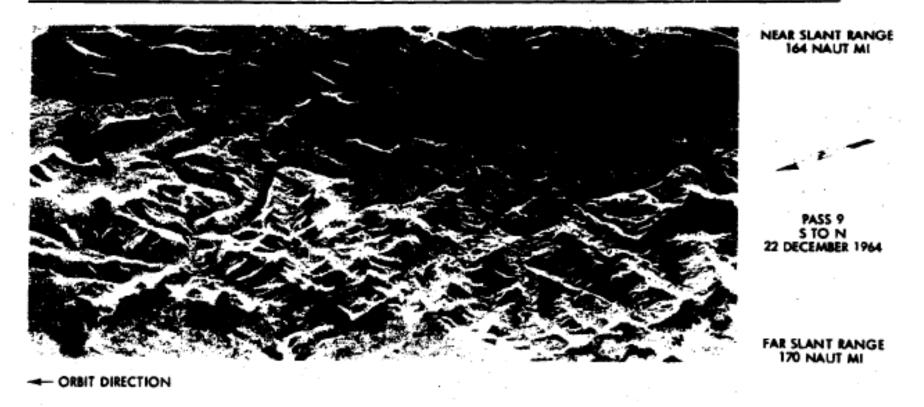
AKP-II-596



(B) COLORADO RIVER, UTAH

First Spaceborne SAR imaging acquired 48 years ago: only just declassified! NRO program 'QUILL' used a Goodyear radar (adapted from the APS-73 radar used on F-4 reconnaissance planes) launched on a Thor-Agena in the Corona series. The battery-powered mission acquired 14 swaths covering ~200,000km² over 21-26 December 1964, with a range resolution of ~25m and azimuth resolution reaching ~3m: some data transmitted by UHF, some captured on film on-board and returned by entry capsule with SAR processing implemented with an optical system. Data covered only continental USA to avoid international complications.