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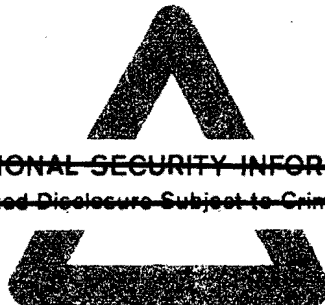
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2. Soviet Union

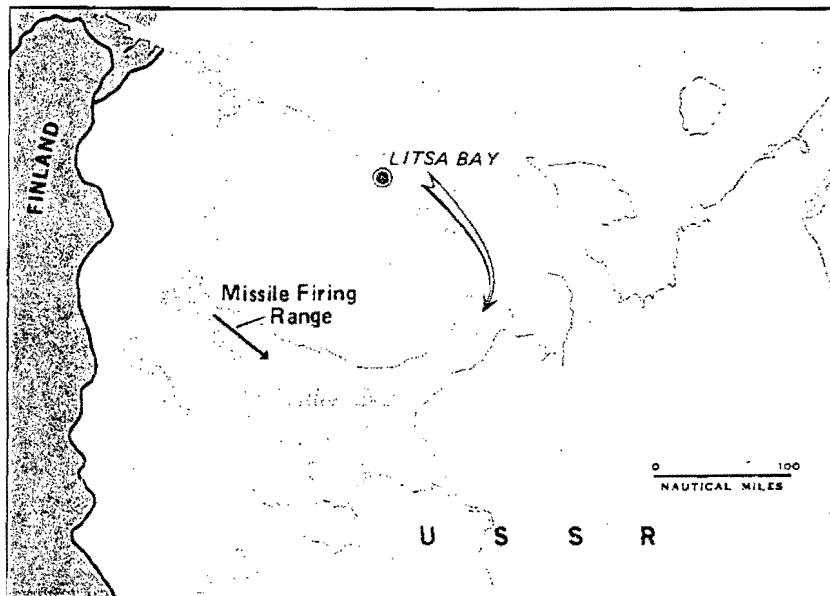
Soyuz 5 is back on earth and its pilot has been safely recovered. There are tentative indications that the ship had some difficulty during de-orbit, but it is too soon to reach any conclusion on this aspect of its flight.

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New Soviet Attack Submarine Involved in White Sea Missile Firing



Soviet C-class nuclear-powered torpedo attack submarine, seen entering White Sea 3 days prior to 20 July 1968 missile firing.



E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

C-class submarine berthed at the Litsa Bay submarine base. Eight missile launch tubes are visible at bow.

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E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(3)

4. Soviet Union

[REDACTED] last July the Soviets test fired a new type of short-range missile from their "C-class" nuclear attack submarine.

Possibly as many as three missiles were fired in the White Sea, up to a range of 35 miles. We do not know whether the missiles are intended for use against surface ships or submarines.

The Soviets now have three of the "C-class" submarines operational in their northern fleet, but so far they have not left Soviet waters. [REDACTED] photography indicates that this vessel has eight missile tubes.

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

* * *

It looks as if the Soviets have completed their second antisubmarine helicopter carrier--the Leningrad. It now may be getting ready for a trial run on the Black Sea. It took nearly a year to shake down the Moskva, the Soviets' only other helicopter carrier, prior to its initial voyage into the Mediterranean last September.

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
17 JANUARY 1969

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1. Soviet Union

Soyuz 4, with its crew of three, returned safely to the Soviet Union early this morning. Soyuz 5 remains in orbit. The next opportunity for recovering it occurs early tomorrow morning. The Soviets probably fulfilled the major goals for this mission--the docking of two manned spacecraft and the transfer of two crewmen from Soyuz 5 to Soyuz 4. These accomplishments represent important developments in proving some of the hardware and techniques required for space rescue and for orbiting and maintaining manned space stations.

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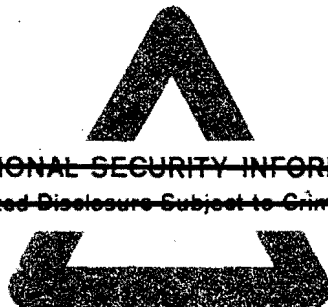
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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 JANUARY 1969

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THE PRESIDENT'S
DAILY BRIEF
16 JANUARY 1969

LATE ITEM

Soviet Union

The two Soviet manned spacecraft completed a successful docking operation shortly after 3:00 AM today. There is as yet no word that crewmen have moved from one capsule to the other.

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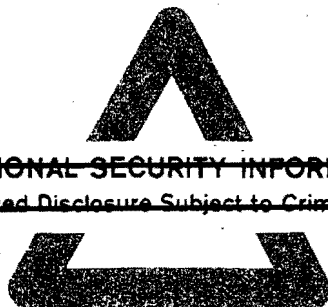
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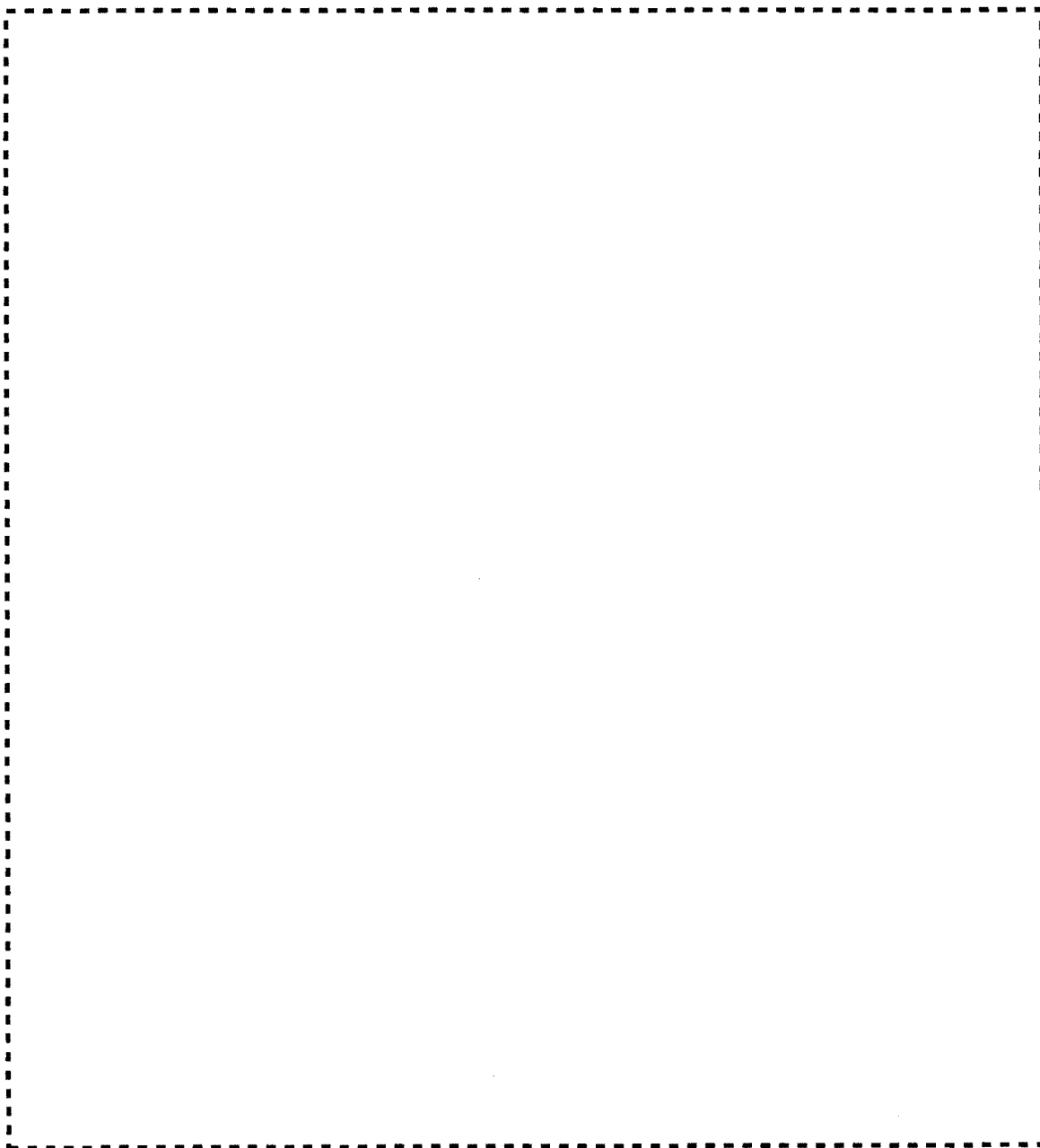
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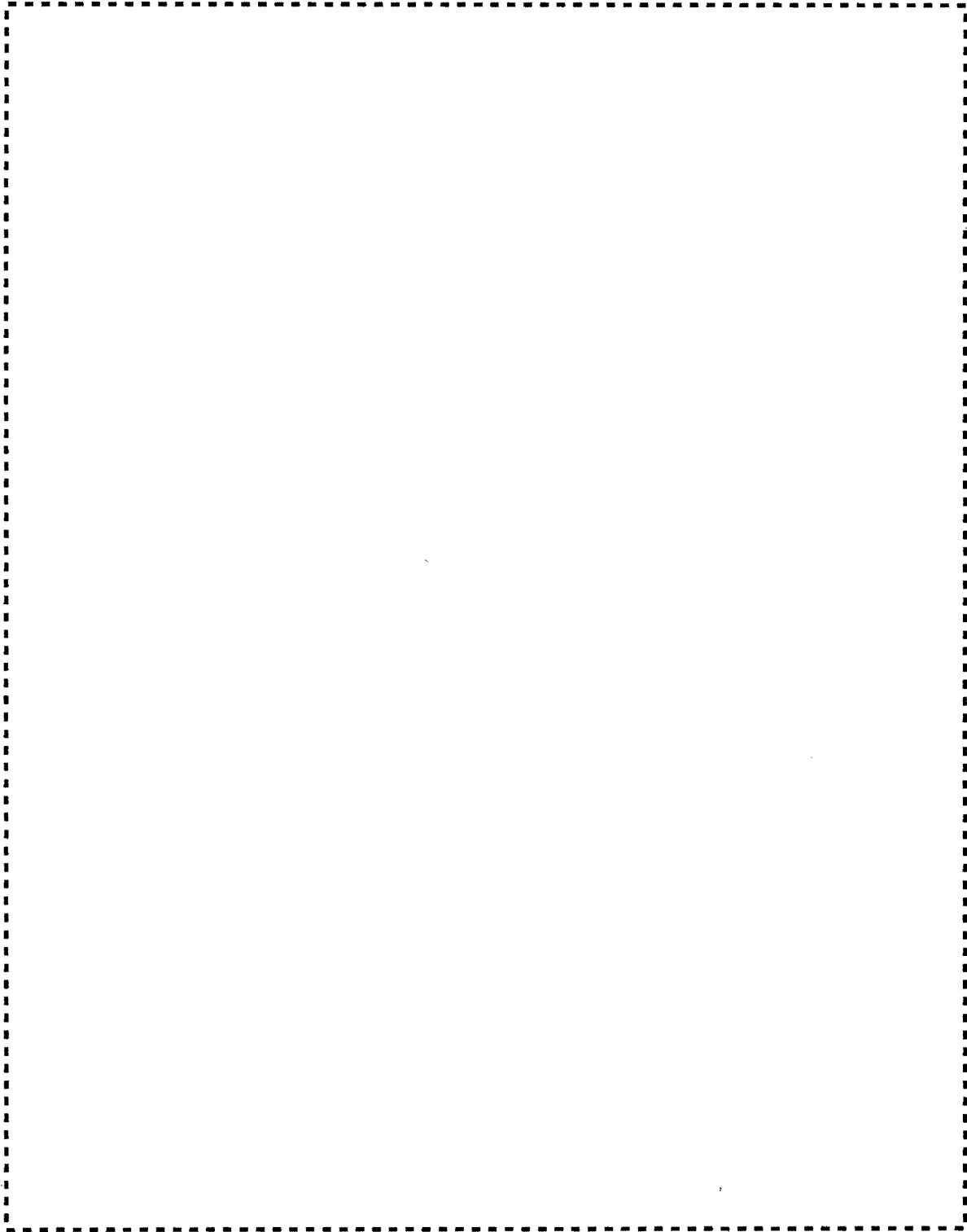
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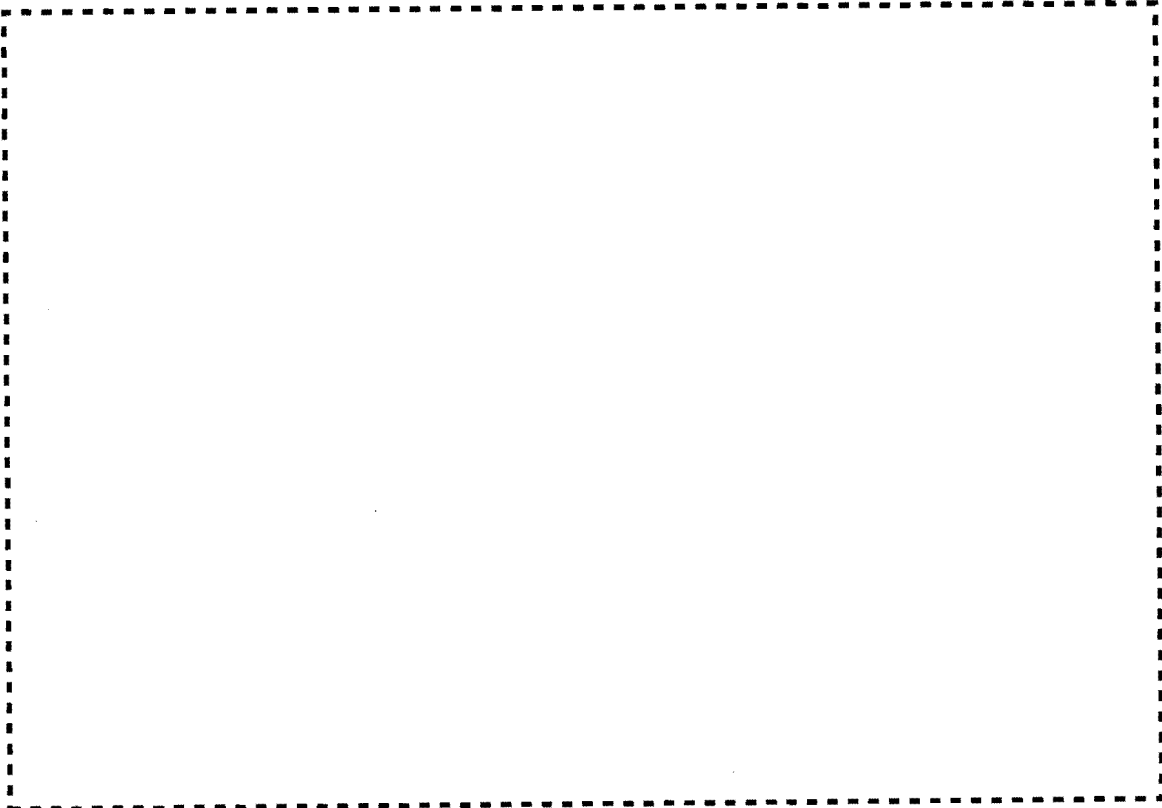
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5. Soviet Union

Soyuz 5 lifted off early this morning as expected. [REDACTED] indicate that it has achieved a rendezvous with Soyuz 4. Docking has not been attempted yet.

With three men in Soyuz 5 and only one in Soyuz 4, it seems plausible that an attempt will be made to transfer personnel from one spacecraft to the other.



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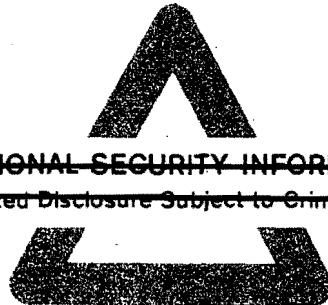
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5. Soviet Union

The Soviets launched another manned space flight early this morning. It was dubbed Soyuz 4 by TASS, which announced that a one-man crew was aboard. One objective of this mission could well be to perfect the docking procedure, something the Soviets failed to accomplish during the flights of Soyuz 2 and 3 last October. If docking is an objective, a second space vehicle probably will be launched early tomorrow.

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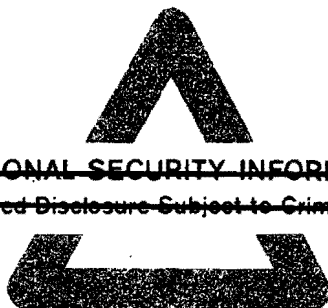
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2. Soviet Union

[Redacted] indi-
cates that the much-publicized flight
by the Soviet supersonic transport on
31 December was its second. We do not
know why the Soviets did not announce
the first flight on 17 December, but we
can only speculate that they did not
want to compete with the upcoming Apollo
8 flight for media coverage.

At Annex we discuss the design and
performance problems the plane is encoun-
tering.



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ANNEX

Soviet SST Has Problems

By getting their supersonic transport into the air first, the Soviets have stolen a propaganda march on the West. We doubt that buyers will be flocking to Moscow, however, and the plane could turn out to be a real lemon.

E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

████████████████████ suggests that its range will probably be no greater than 2,500 miles, rather than the 3,500 miles claimed by the Soviets. This means it cannot fly the major transatlantic routes. It could reach European capitals from Moscow, but only if sonic-boom problems are ignored or somehow alleviated. Thus there is a possibility that the plane will be restricted to flights in the Soviet Union and to international routes which do not touch countries that have stringent noise and safety regulations.

Like the Anglo-French Concorde, which it resembles, the Soviet aircraft has run into weight and wing-design problems. Because of these and other difficulties, one Soviet scientist recently admitted that it would probably not go into service before 1972 or 1973, notwithstanding Moscow's claim of 1970 or 1971.

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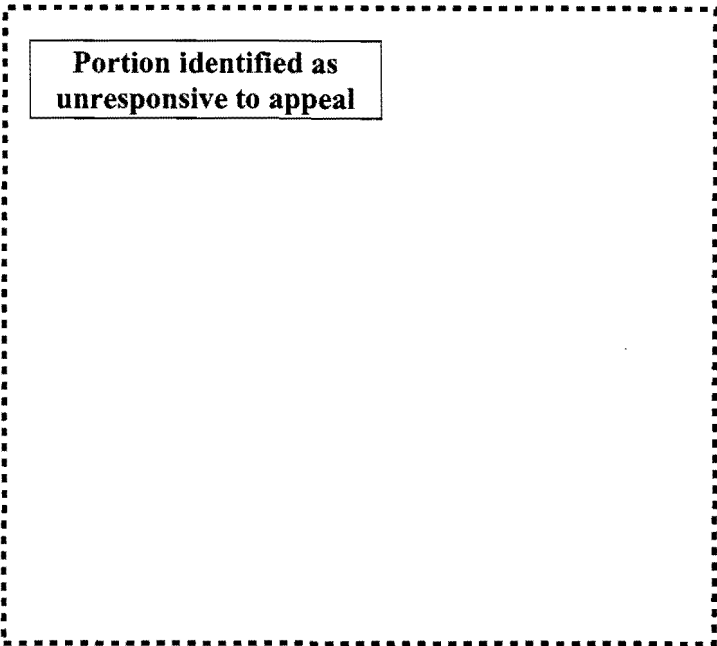
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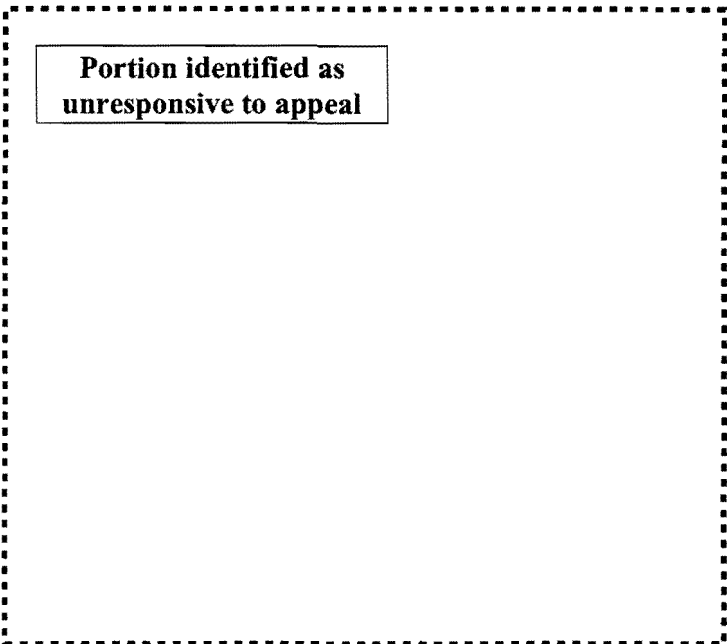
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8. Soviet Union

Early this morning the Soviets launched their second Venus probe this year. It was sent off only five days after the first one, which is on course.

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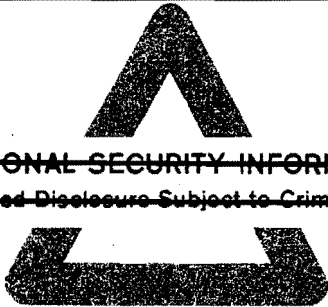
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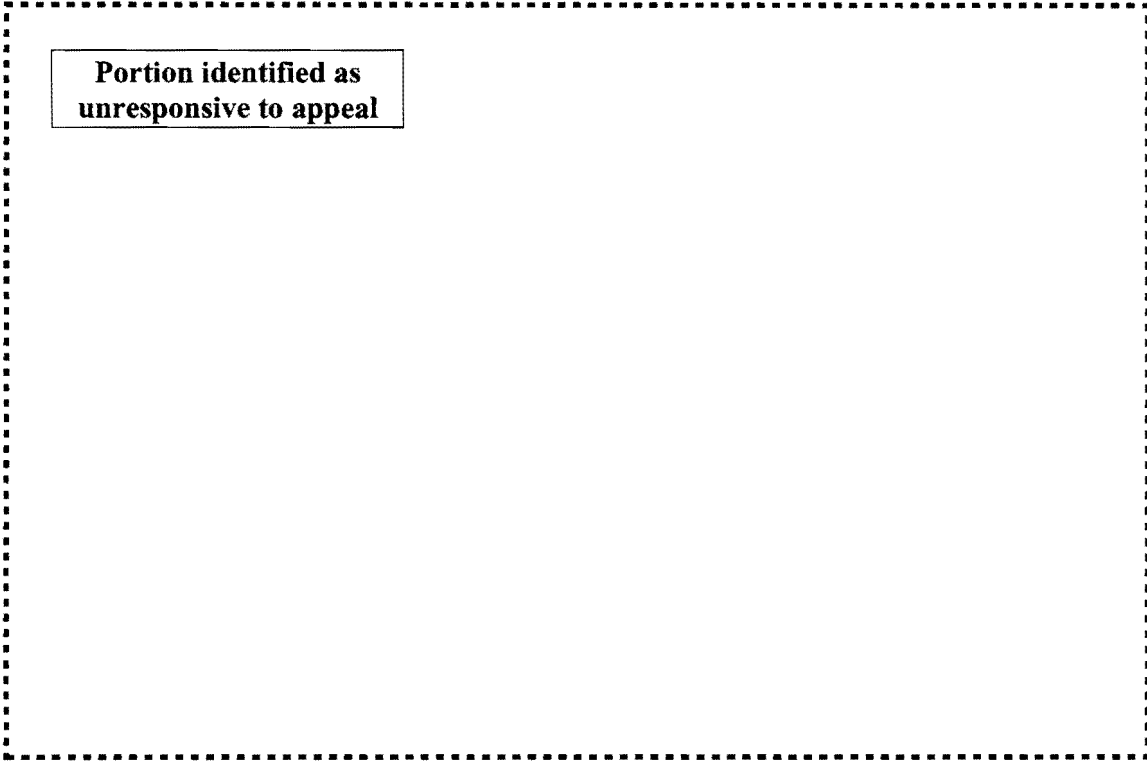
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8 JANUARY 1969

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1. Soviet Union

The Soviets appear to be getting ready for another manned space flight. Judging by the movement of the space support ships, the launch will probably occur within the next week. The pattern of the ships' deployment indicates the flight will stay in earth orbit and not go circumlunar. The last Soviet manned flight was Soyuz-3 in late October.

Another Venus mission may also be coming up.



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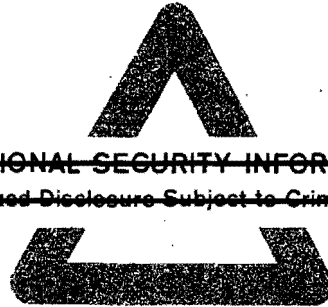
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6 JANUARY 1969

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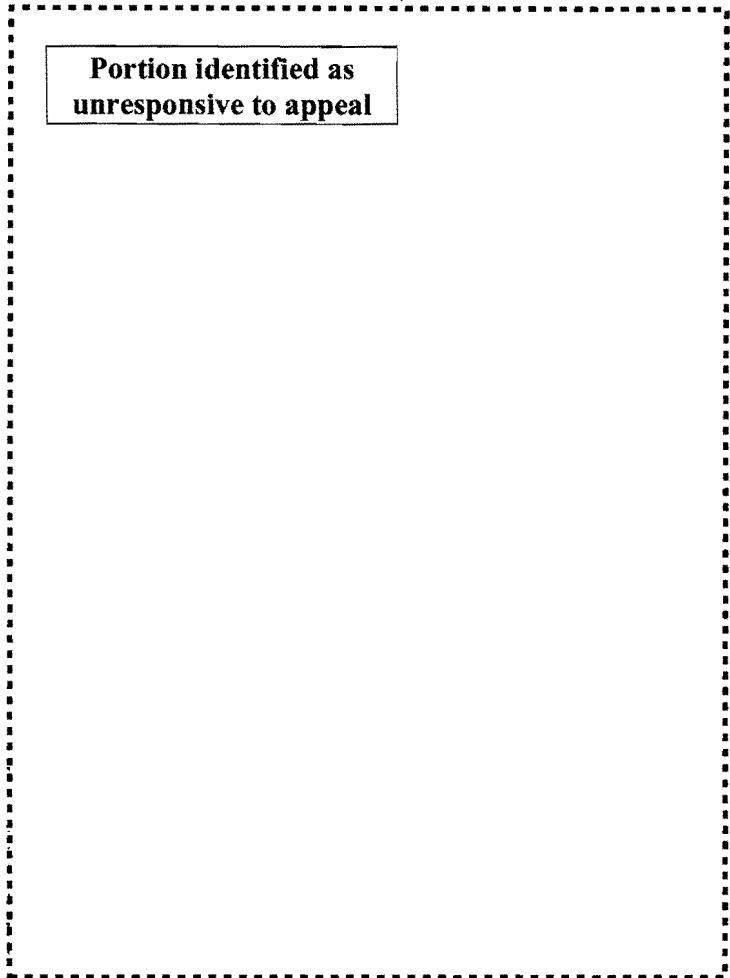
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3. Soviet Union

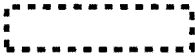
The first Soviet interplanetary probe toward Venus during this current favorable launching period is apparently designed to descend gently onto the planet in mid-May. Unlike Venus-4, which in October 1967 was the first Soviet shot to hit the planet, this probe probably has improved instruments to insure transmission of Venusian atmospheric data during its descent.



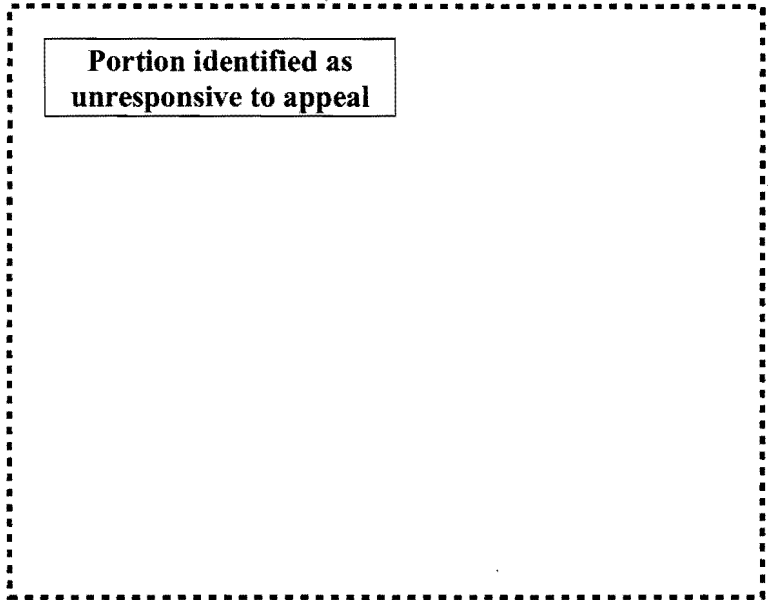
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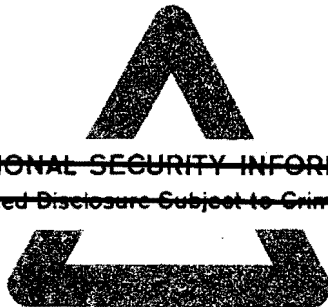
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4 JANUARY 1969

1. Soviet Union

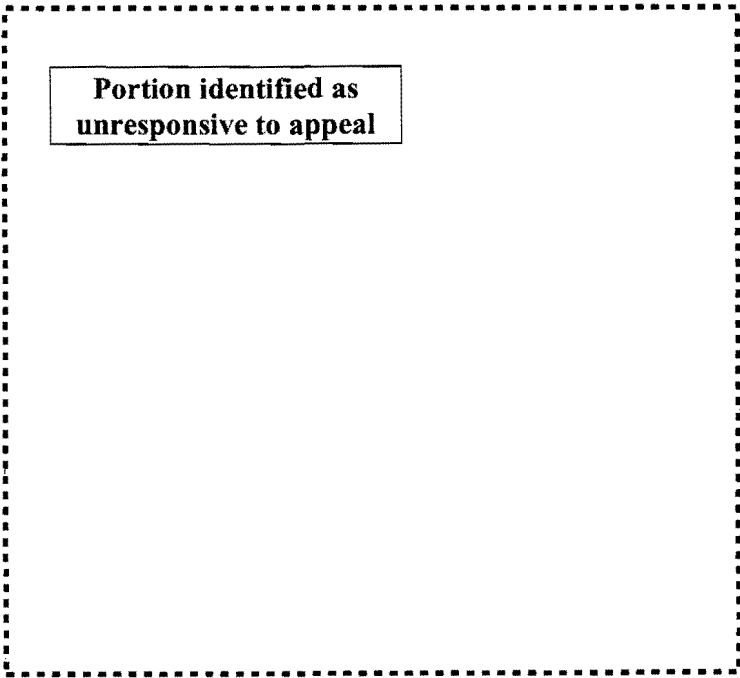
A launch "window" for Venus will be open soon and the Russians probably will take advantage of it to attempt two or three probes to the planet. The best day will be about 13 January, but the launches could be made several days on either side.

The Soviets may try a repeat of their Venus 4 mission. This probe, while not a complete success, sent back data on the Venusian atmosphere before it hit the planet in October 1967.

From their present positions, the Soviet space support ships could back up a Venus shot and other space events as well.



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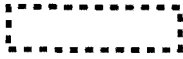


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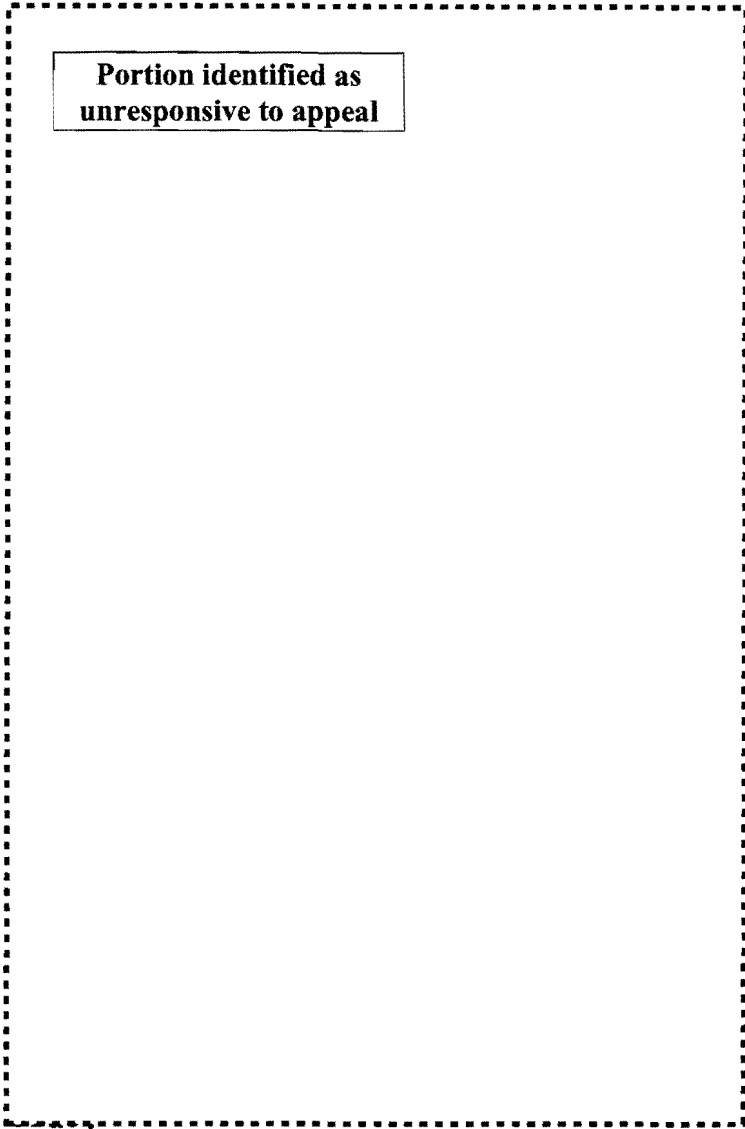


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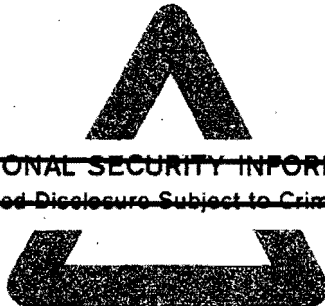
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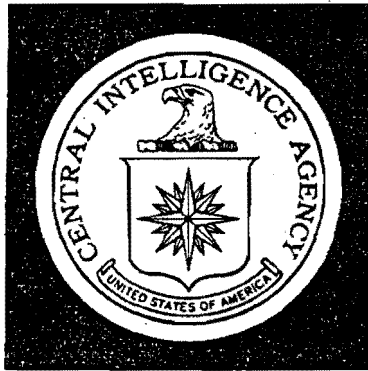
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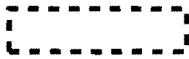
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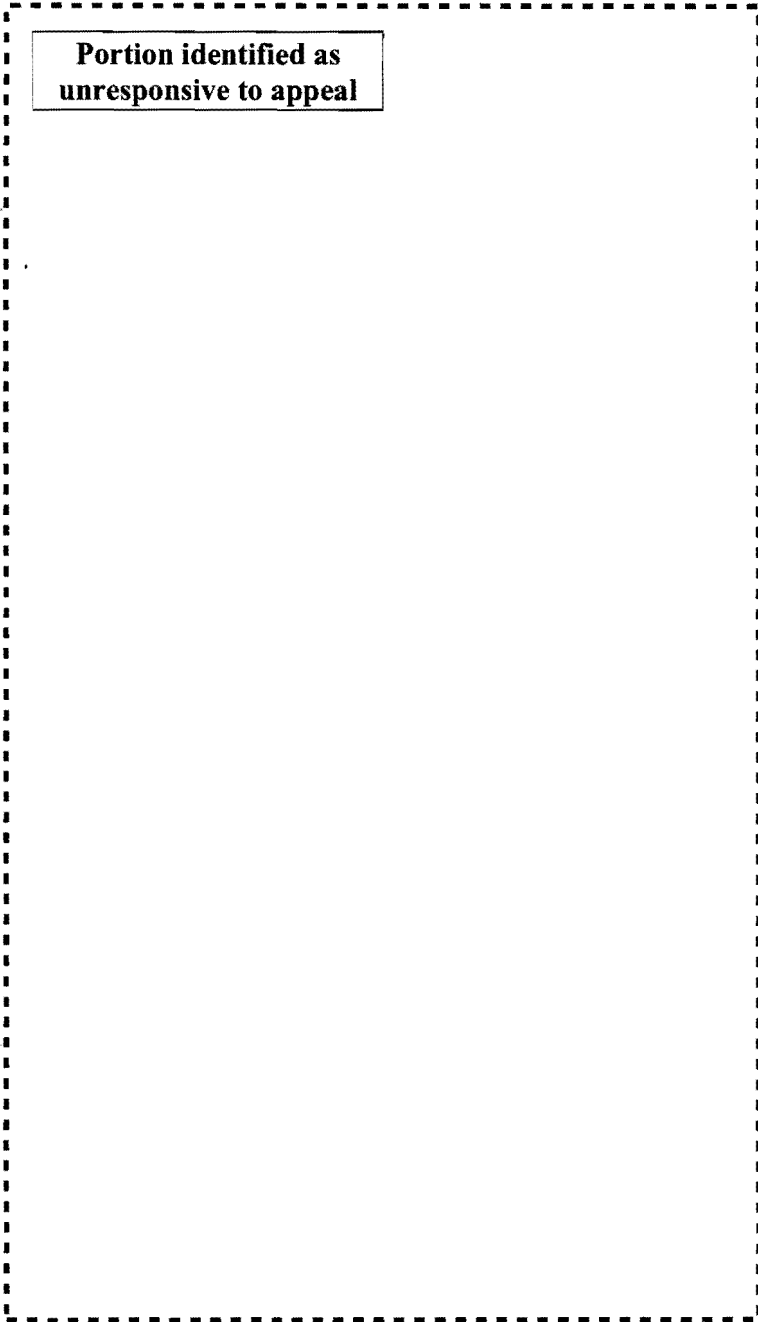
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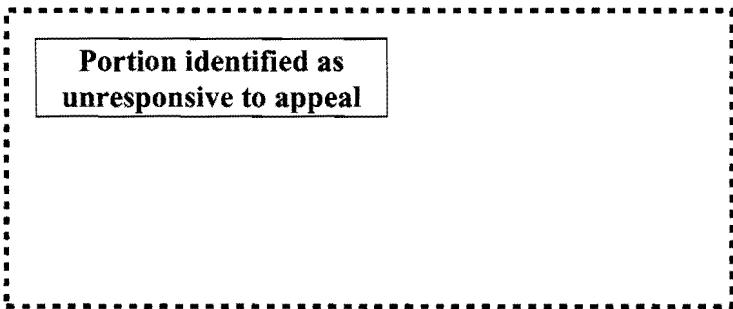
E.O. 13526, section 3.3(b)(1)

5. Soviet Union

Satellite photography [redacted] shows the Soviets' biggest space booster back on its launch pad. The booster, which has been photographed on its pad several times [redacted] was returned to the nearby checkout building [redacted]. Assuming the checkout turned up no major difficulties, the first flight test could occur within the next few months.



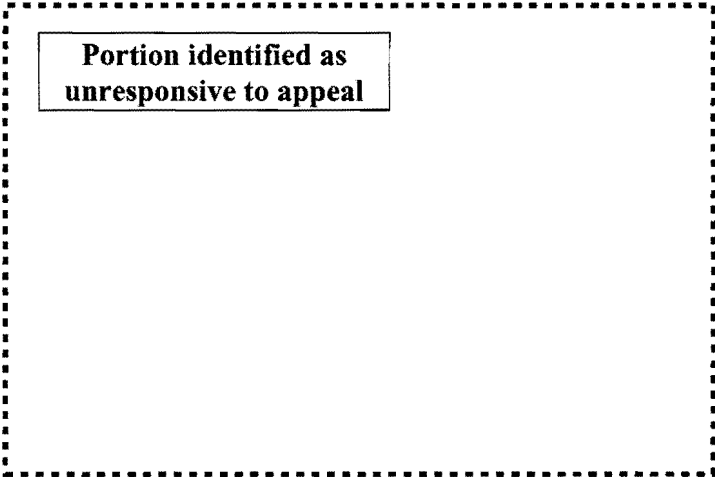
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