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# W I R

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## WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

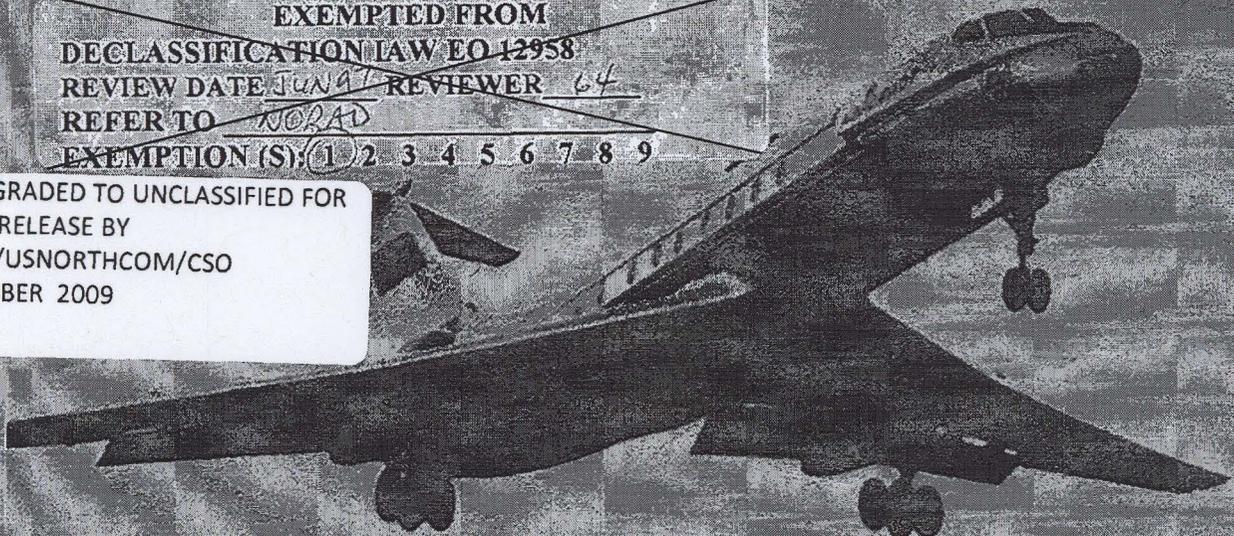
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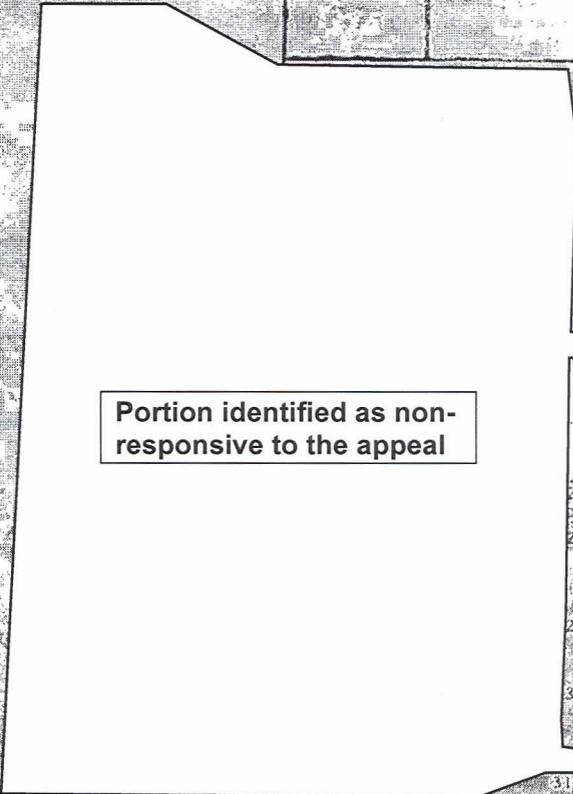
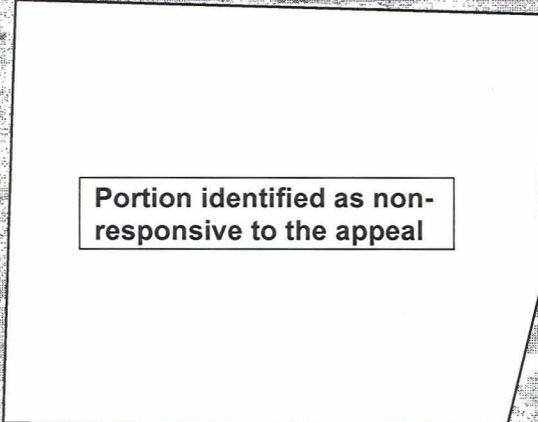
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**Intelligence  
Review**

Issue No. 52/65, 24 December, 1965

**The WIR in Brief**

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT - No WIR Next Week



**Space**

GOSMOS 99 ROUTINE DE-ORBIT 16  
On schedule and uneventful.  
GOSMOS 100 LAUNCHED FROM TT 16  
Apparent repeat of Cosmos 44 and 58.  
SOVIET ESV FAILURE LAUNCHED FROM 17  
TYURATAM  
Interesting vehicle explodes over the western Pacific.  
MORE ON LATEST SOVIET LUNAR PROBE FAILURE 17  
Next attempt could come early in January.  
KAPUSTIN YAR LAUNCHES SCIENTIFIC ESV 18  
Probable replacement for radiation study vehicle.

COVER: Soviet TU-134  
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Note: Pages 2, 32, 34 and 35 of this issue are blank.

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significant  
intelligence  
on space  
developments  
and trends

### Cosmos 99 Routine De-orbit

Cosmos 99, a Soviet 65 degree photorecce vehicle launched on 10 December, was de-orbited early during revolution 127 on 18 December. It crossed the equator at 0535Z and impacted probably twenty minutes later.

(NORAD)

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### Cosmos 100 Launched from TI

Cosmos 100 was launched 17 December at 0220Z from Tyuratam. The orbital parameters are as follows:

	<u>By SPADATS</u>	<u>By TASS</u>
Period	96.77 minutes	97.7 minutes
Inclination	65.02 degrees	65.00 degrees
Apogee	648.8 kilometers	648.6 kilometers
Perigee	560.7 kilometers	-----

This vehicle appears to be similar to Cosmos 44 and 58. The exact mission of this vehicle is at present undetermined, however, due to its similarities to Cosmos 44 and 58 which were tentatively assessed as weather reconnaissance, the mission of Cosmos 100 may also be the same.

(NORAD; SPADATS Center)

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## Soviet ESV Failure Launched from Tyuratam

On 16 December at 1410Z the Soviets successfully launched from Tyuratam an unidentified vehicle into a ballistic trajectory with an apogee of approximately 100 nm. A possible attempt at powered flight over Kamchatka either to inject an object or change the velocity of a re-entering object resulted in an explosion producing a number of re-entering objects. The FPS-17 and FPS-80 located at Shemya tracked associated objects from this launch and data processed indicate an impact point at 5772N, 16608E at 1428:00Z.

Two visual sightings of re-entry probably associated with this operation, were reported. The Music Blue aircraft platform, operating off the East coast of Kamchatka, reported that its manual tracker sighted a wavering fire-like light in the Western sky at 1425:30Z when Music Blue was positioned at 5753N, 16641E. The crew described the initial visual sighting as appearing like an explosion. In the ensuing 30 seconds, several objects dimmed out shortly, but two objects continued from the initial bearing of 30 degrees, one seemed to be larger, tumbling and was in sight for 40 seconds. The sighting of the first object correlates reasonably well with the Shemya FPS-17 radint.

The other visual sighting was made by a commercial airline pilot, on a true heading of 67 degrees, over 4516N, 17200E, who reported sighting several bright objects headed southeast at a higher rate of speed at 1429Z.

It is impossible at this time from the available data to pinpoint the intent of this Soviet operation. Possibilities could include a multiple payload operation or a maneuverable type vehicle both of which require the use of thrust after reaching this observed distance from launch.

(NORAD)

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## More on Latest Soviet Lunar Probe Failure

Luna 8, which crashed on the moon on 6 December, was the USSR's sixth lunar probe this year and the third to get close enough to the moon to test lunar soft-landing techniques. Like Lunas 5 and 7, the latest probe apparently executed all of the delicate maneuvers of its three-day flight except final touchdown. All three failures -- reported by TASS in each case -- appear to have resulted from difficulties with the retro-rocket system. The wording of the TASS reports suggests that Lunas 7 and 8 came close to succeeding.

Soft-landing a payload on the moon involves complex problems of guidance, orientation, and deceleration which can be overcome only by





tests on the moon's surface. The three unsuccessful landings undoubtedly provided the Soviets with knowledge of soft-landing techniques and will probably increase their chances of future success. However, the structure and composition of the lunar surface are still a mystery that presents unknown hazards to every soft-lander.

The Soviets could make their next attempt for a soft landing early in January. The next optimum launch time for a Lunar probe using an inclination of 65 degrees would be on 1 January - at 0824Z and approximately a day later if 51.8 degrees is employed as was the case for Luna 8.

(CIA, NORAD)

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### Kapustin Yar Launches Scientific ESV

The Soviet space operations of 21 December culminated in the launch of Cosmos 101. It appears that this latest vehicle is a replacement for Cosmos 76 which became inactive in October. Since the launch of Cosmos 6, launched in June 1962, the Soviets have maintained one of an apparent series of scientific space vehicles in orbit. Although there have been breaks in the continuity, generally, a replacement vehicle is orbited about a month after its predecessor becomes inactive.

[redacted] this launch indicates that the standard Kapustin Yar launch system was employed. That is, an SS-4 as a first stage and a KY Cosmos second stage. [redacted] appears to be identical to that which appeared on earlier payloads of this type.

The mission of this series of satellites which have an orbital life of about nine months, has been assessed as scientific. Radiation studies probably are being conducted. The weight of this payload has been estimated to be about 500 pounds. This launch brings the total for KY in 1965 to seven, six of which have occurred since July.

Orbital parameters for Cosmos 101 are as follows:

	<u>SDC</u>	<u>TASS</u>
Period	92.15 minutes	92.4 minutes
Inclination	48.8 degrees	49.0 degrees
Apogee	511.3 kilometers	550.0 kilometers
Perigee	258.7 kilometers	260.0 kilometers

(NORAD, Space Defense Center)

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