

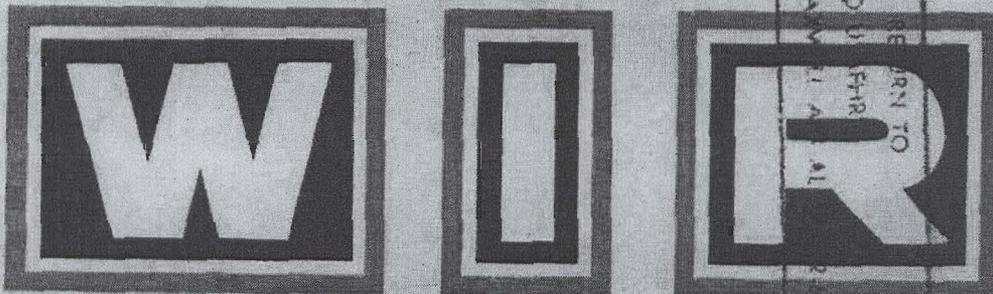
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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

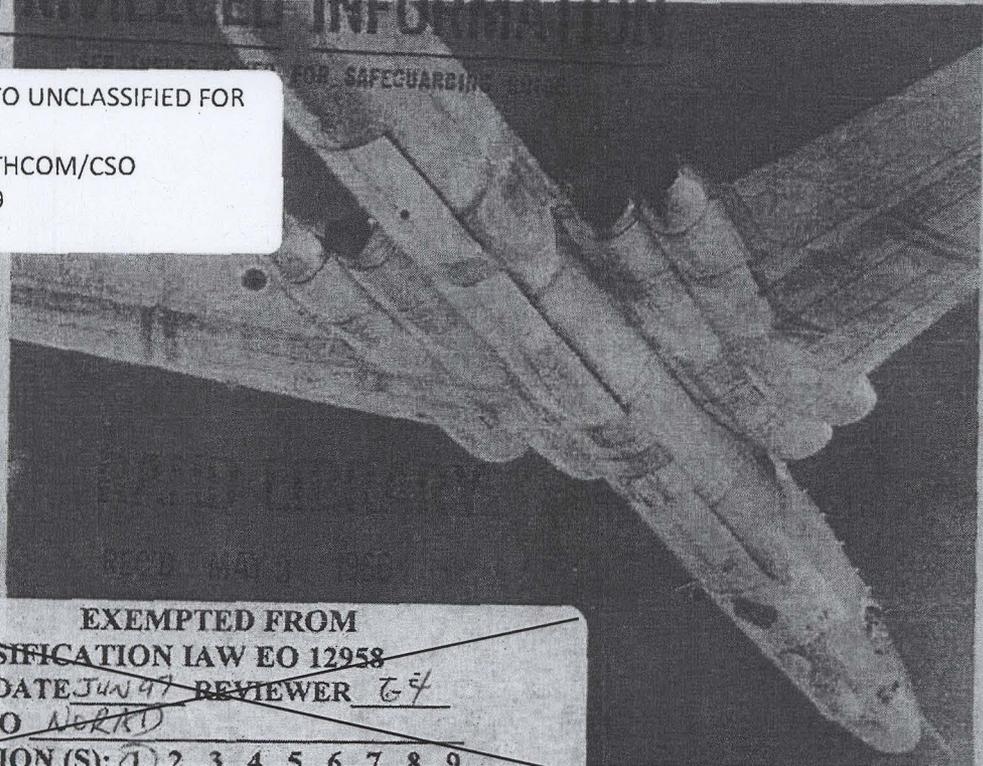
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*No. 17-66
29 Apr. 66
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Weekly
Intelligence
Review

USSTRAT
REF ID: A6112

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Issue No. 17/66, 29 April 1966

The WIR in Brief

[Redacted]

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

[Redacted]

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Space

ACTION ON PROPOSED SOVIET SPACE TRACKING STATION IN AUSTRALIA SUSPENDED

Soviets having difficulty setting up global tracking net.

SOVIETS STALL ON WEATHER SATELLITE PLEDGE: PLAN TO LAUNCH 25 REPORTED

No official data given at meeting specifically convened for US and USSR to tell WMO what data they can furnish.

COSMOS 116 PROBABLY A SCIENTIFIC VEHICLE AS CLAIMED

Launched from Kapustin Yar.

THIRD 'MOLNIYA'-TYPE COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE LAUNCHED

All 3 launched about 6 months apart.

[Redacted]

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

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COVER: BISON jet heavy bomber (from COMICEDEFOR) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)
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space

significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Action on Proposed Soviet Space Tracking Station in Australia Suspended

Australia has suspended action on a proposal to establish a Soviet space tracking station in Australia, according to the Australian Ambassador to the US. The proposal was made in 1960 by the Soviet Academy of Sciences, but action on it was put off in 1963 in the wake of a Soviet espionage scandal in Australia. Australian interest in the station was renewed in 1965 when the government considered methods of improving relations with the USSR.

The Soviets have not been able to establish a truly global space-tracking network because of difficulties in arranging for the establishment of tracking stations in Free World countries.

(State; CIA; NORAD)

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Soviets Stall on Weather Satellite Pledge; Plan to Launch 25 Reported

The Soviet delegation to last month's meeting of the WMO (World Meteorological Organization) was extremely reluctant to disclose any details of the USSR's plans for launches of meteorological satellites and their instrumentation, although the specific purpose of the meeting was to allow the US and USSR to present information as to what type of satellite-collected data they would be able to contribute to a global weather system during 1968-1971. The Soviet presentation at the meeting was an excellent summary of US plans and activities in this field, but contained nothing which could be specifically related to the Soviet program.

In a private conversation, a Soviet delegate mentioned that his country plans to launch 25 meteorological satellites. No time frame was mentioned, but presumably the Soviet delegate was speaking of operational satellites launched during the period of interest to the WMO meeting, 1968-1971. Experimental and/or operational vehicles could, of course, be launched before 1968.

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The USSR is now more or less delinquent with respect to the agreement which it made with the US last October to exchange satellite weather information with the US "within a few months." The Soviets have not yet launched an operating weather satellite, although reportedly, some of their spacecraft have collected infrared data, which might be of meteorological interest, and 3 of their Cosmoses (Nos. 44, 58, and 100) may have been prototypes of meteorological satellites, since they were injected into orbits which had altitudes suitable for meteorological satellites.

(CIA; NORAD)

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Cosmos 116 Probably a Scientific Vehicle, as Claimed

Cosmos 116, which the Soviets launched from the Kapustin Yar Missile Test Range at about 1005Z, 26 April, is believed to be a scientific research vehicle as the Soviets claim. It was injected into an orbit of about 49 degrees inclination, which is standard for Kapustin Yar-launched satellites. The orbital period of the new craft is 91.85 minutes.

(NORAD)

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Third 'Molniya'-Type Communications Satellite Launched

The USSR's third Molniya 1 was launched from the Tyuratam Missile Test Range at about 0710Z, 25 April. The Soviets have announced that the craft is continuing the Molniya 1 program with more testing of the systems and apparatus carried by the satellite and of the equipment at the associated ground sites.

The new Molniya, like its two predecessors, was first injected into a parking orbit -- and then ejected by the Soviets' "interplanetary" stage into a highly elliptical orbit with a period of nearly 12 hours which causes the satellite to nearly repeat its Earth trace once each 24 hours. It is thus in position once each day to provide line-of-sight relay of communications between points within the USSR for about 9-10 hours.

Assuming that the third Molniya 1 is performing satisfactorily, the Soviets will probably have to adjust its orbital period with a slight amount of rocket thrust (as they did with the first two Molnias) to provide the spacecraft the required nominal 12-hour orbital period.

TASS has announced the following parameters for the third Molniya 1:





Inclination	64.5 degrees
Period	710 minutes
Apogee	39,500 kilometers (21,500 n.m.)
Perigee	499 kilometers (265 n.m.)

The new communications satellite was launched 1 year and 2 days after the first Molniya 1 (23 April 1965) and a little more than 6 months after the second one (14 October 1965). Thus the latest event maintains the apparent schedule of launching Molniyas about 6 months apart. The first two Molniyas, it is believed, are no longer transmitting.

Cosmos 41, which the Soviets launched on 22 August 1964 into an orbit similar to those of the Molniyas, was probably a failed attempt to launch the first vehicle of this series.

(NORAD)

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