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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

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# NORAD

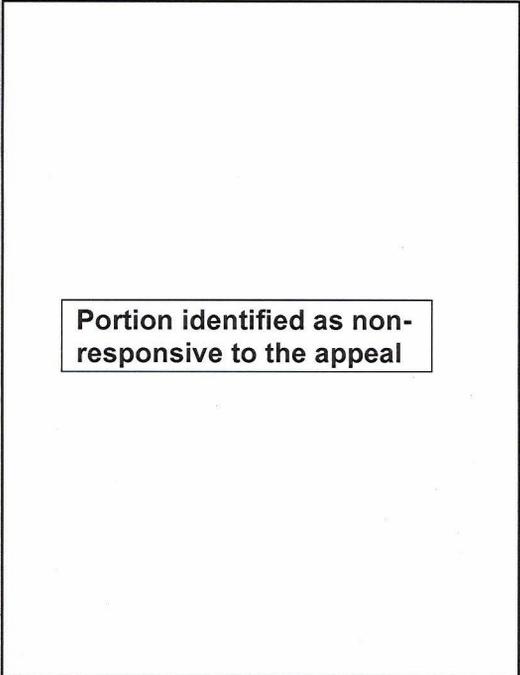
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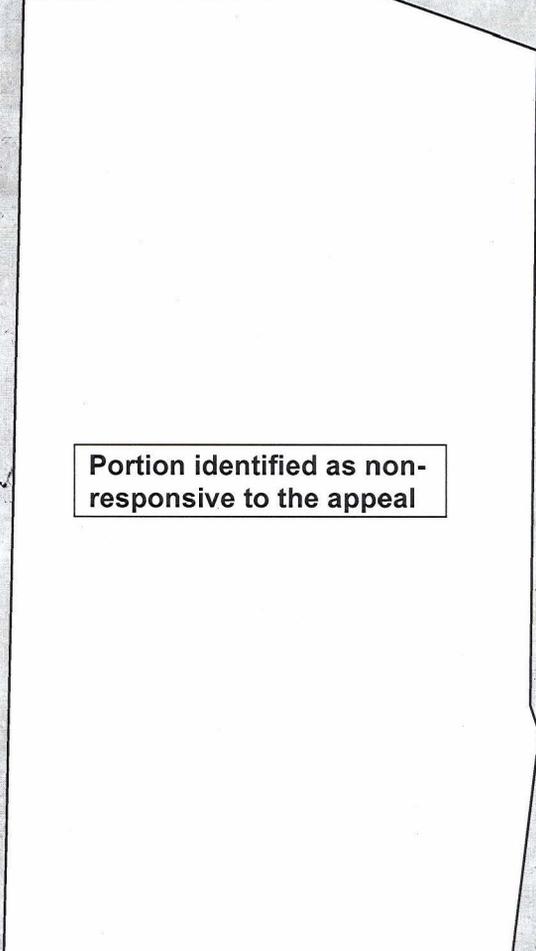
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## The WIR in Brief



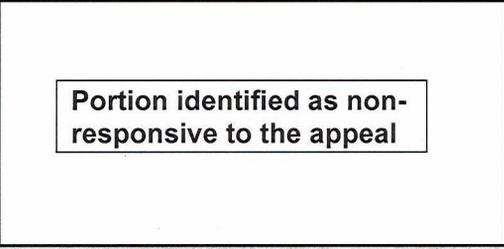
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### Space

COSMOS 120 A RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE IN A 51-DEGREE ORBIT  
 Medium camera-resolution spacecraft is 10th military reconnaissance vehicle this year.  
 STERILIZATION OF SOVIET DEEP-SPACE PROBES MAY BE INADEQUATE  
 US tested and turned down methods reportedly used by Soviets.  
 DESIGNATIONS FOR SOVIET SPACE-LAUNCH CONFIGURATIONS



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COVER: Missile being loaded aboard Soviet ship (from Red Star) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

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significant  
intelligence  
on space  
developments  
and trends

### Cosmos 120 a Reconnaissance Satellite in 51-Degree Orbit

Cosmos 120, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 1100Z, 8 June, is believed to be a reconnaissance satellite, the 10th of this type to be orbited this year. The spacecraft probably carries a camera system of medium resolution (20-30 feet) and probably equipment for collecting electronic intelligence.

Cosmos 120 was launched by an SS-6 ICBM booster-sustainer and injected into orbit by a light Lunik third stage. It will be de-orbited 16 June, if the usual flight patterns prevail. Its orbital parameters have been reported as follows:

	<u>NORAD Space Defense Center</u>	<u>TASS</u>
Equatorial inclination	51.74 degrees	51.8 degrees
Orbital period	89.84 minutes	89.4 minutes
Apogee	331.1 kilometers (179 n. m.)	300 kilometers (162 n. m.)
Perigee	201.4 kilometers (109 n. m.)	200 kilometers (108 n. m.)

The new satellite is the first Soviet reconnaissance satellite to be injected into a nominal 51- to 52-degree orbit in 10 months.

(NORAD)

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## Sterilization of Soviet Deep Space Probes May Be Inadequate

The procedures used by the Soviets to sterilize their deep space probes are probably of limited value.

Soviet attendees at COSPAR (Committee on Space Research) in Vienna, revealing for the first time the sterilization procedures used on the USSR's interplanetary probes, said that the spacecraft capsules are assembled in "clean rooms" rooms to reduce initial contamination and are later sterilized by a 2-fold procedure in which moist heat (temperature unspecified) and a sterilizing gas consisting of 60 percent ethylene oxide and 40 percent methyl bromide are used. This procedure reportedly was used to sterilize the capsule of Venera 3, the Soviet probe which impacted on Venus on 1 March 1966, and presumably was also used on lunar soft-lander Luna 9.

US scientists previously have concluded that both ethylene oxide and moist heat (steam under pressure) are of value for surface sterilization but unsatisfactory for sterilizing interior components.

A final assessment of probably the effectiveness of the Soviet procedures cannot be made until more details are available on the specific steps involved.

(CIA)

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## Designations for Soviet Space-Launch Configurations

A New system has been standardized for designating the configurations of systems used to launch Soviet spacecraft, as follows:

### Designators

<u>New</u>	<u>Old</u>	<u>Launch System Configuration (and examples of payloads with which used)</u>
SL-1	SE-1	Vehicle used to launch Sputniks 1 and 2.
SL-2	SE-2	SS-6 ICBM, no upper stage (Sputnik 3)
SL-3	SE-3/ SL-1	SS-6 ICBM with Lunik upper stage (lunar probes launched in 1959-1961, biosatellites, many Cosmos reconnaissance satellites, Vostoks)
SL-4	SE-4	SS-6 ICBM with Venik upper stage (Voskhods, some reconnaissance satellites)
SL-5*	-----	SS-6 ICBM with Lunik upper stage and a fourth stage
SL-6	SP-1/ SL-2	SS-6 ICBM with Venik upper stage and fourth interplanetary stage (interplanetary probes, all lunar probes since 1963, Molniya communications satellites)





<u>New</u>	<u>Old</u>	<u>Launch System Configuration (and examples of payloads with which used)</u>
SL-7	SE-7	SS-4 MRBM and upper stage (Cosmos research satellites launched from Kapustin Yar)
SL-8	SE-8	SS-5 IRBM and upper stage (multiple-payload Cosmooses launched from Tyuratam)
SL-9	SE-9	Large 2-stage vehicle (heavy Proton research satellites)
SL-10	Polyot	SS-6 ICBM and maneuverable Polyot upper stage (Polyots 1 and 2)

\*This configuration has not appeared yet in the Soviet space program.

The new designators identify only the configuration of the launch system; they do not imply consistent performance characteristics when used for different missions.

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