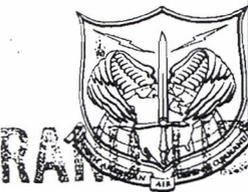


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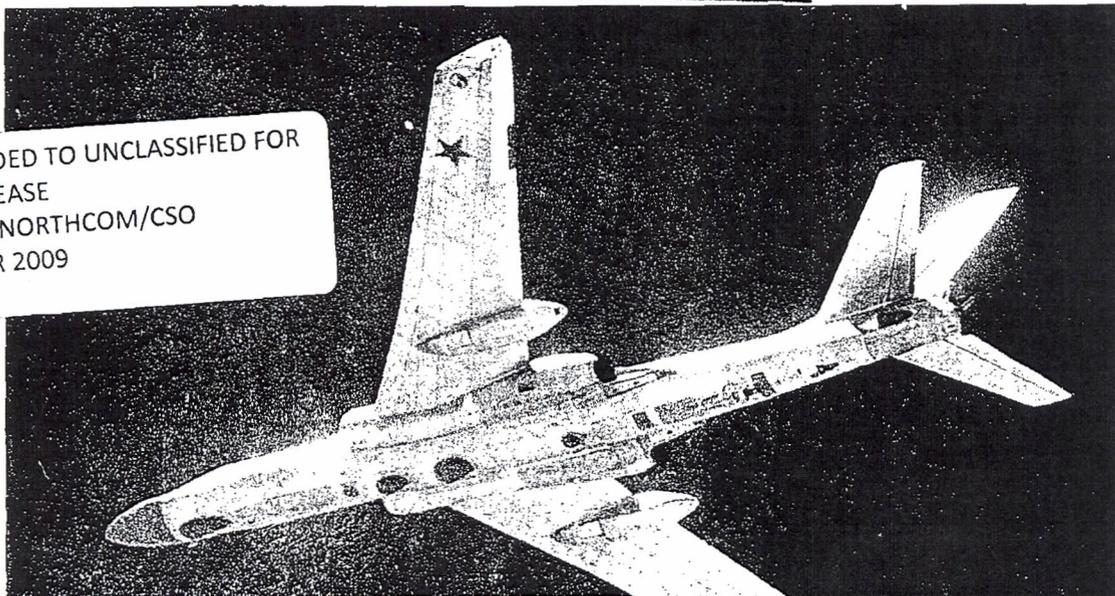
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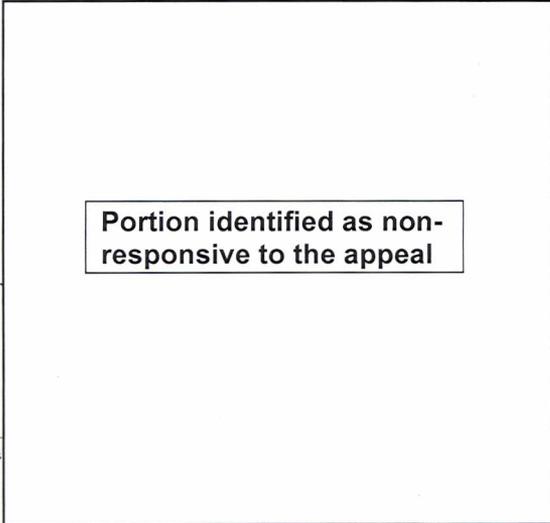
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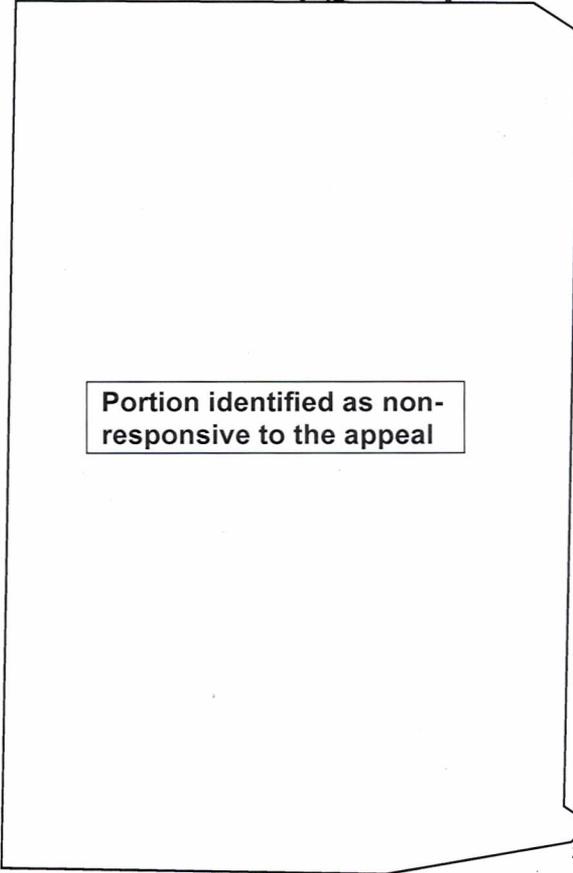
Issue No. 28/66, 15 July 1966

The WIR in Brief



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Space

3d STAGE OF POSSIBLE 'FOBS' MAY WEIGH ABOUT 9,000 POUNDS

A preliminary FTD estimate.

COSMOS 123 IS 6th RESEARCH VEHICLE OF 20 COSMOSES LAUNCHED SO FAR THIS YEAR

Other missions estimated for 14 other Cosmoses.

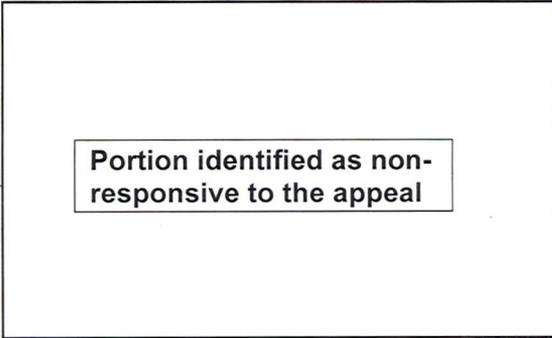
SPACE STATUS REPORT

As of 1 July.

NEXT LUNAR PROBES MIGHT CARRY SURFACE ANALYZERS, SEISMOMETERS

Next launch "windows" for lunar soft-landers listed.

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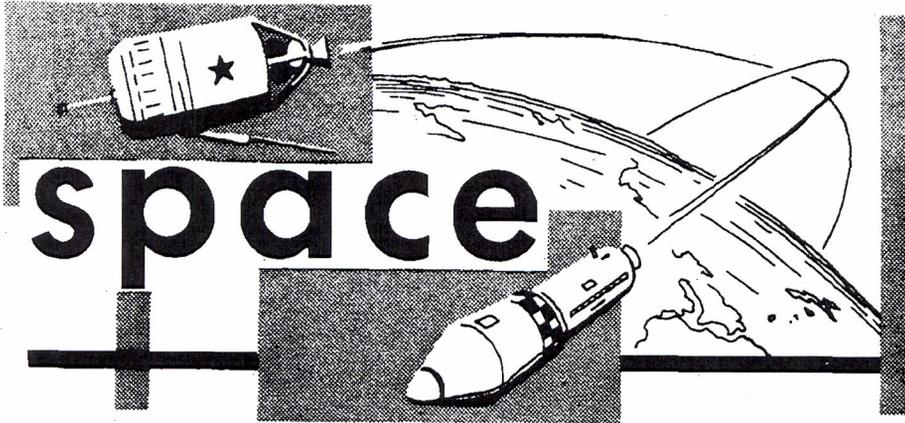
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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

3d Stage of Possible FOBS May Weigh About 9,000 Pounds

The third stage of the vehicle launched from Tyuratam on 5 February 1966, in what may have been an R&D test of a fractional-orbit bombardment system, may weigh 9,000 pounds (plus or minus 100 pounds), according to a preliminary estimate by FTD.

This is about 10% less than the weight estimated for the Soviets' SS-9 ICBM, although there are indications that the new weapon system is a development of the SS-9 (both have 2 propulsion stages, [redacted])

The weight difference is explained at least in part by the fact that the high velocity of the low-trajectory FOBS would require a reduction in war-head weight.

(FTD; NORAD)

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Cosmos 123 is the 6th Research Vehicle of 20 Cosmoses Launched So Far This Year

The Soviets launched Cosmos 123 from Kapustin Yar at about 0536Z, 8 July, into an orbit of the following parameters:

Inclination	48.79 degrees
Period	92.70 minutes
Apogee	568.9 kilometers
Perigee	251.5 kilometers

The new satellite is probably a research vehicle, as claimed by the Soviets. If so, it would be the 6th research vehicle (including the biosatellite, Cosmos 110) of the 20 Cosmoses launched so far this year. The Soviets claim that all their Cosmoses are research satellites, but 14 of those launched

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this year are believed to have had primary missions other than research:

- 11 were military reconnaissance vehicles.
- 1 was a lunar-probe failure given the alias of Cosmos 111.
- 2 were meteorological satellites or prototypes thereof.

Cosmos 123's orbital parameters are quite similar to those of Cosmoses 14, 23, 31, 51, 93, and 106 -- all of which were launched from Kapustin Yar, and all of which have been assessed as research vehicles.

(NORAD)

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Space Status Report

The over-all space vehicle status report as of 1 July 1966 was as follows:

	<u>USA</u>	<u>UK</u>	<u>Can</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>USSR</u>	<u>Total</u>
Payloads orbiting Earth	189	2	2		3	44	240
Payloads in lunar orbit						1	1
Payloads in Sun orbit	9					9	18
Payloads on Venus						1	1
Payloads on Moon	6					5	11
Debris in Earth orbit	677	1	2		11	138	829
Debris in Sun orbit	8					2	10
TOTALS	889	3	4		14	204	1,124
Payloads de-orbited or decayed	187			1		115	303
Debris decayed	217					623	840
TOTALS	1,293	3	4	1	14	942	2,257

(NORAD Space Defense Center)
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Next Lunar Probes Might Carry Surface Analyzers, Seismometers

The next Soviet lunar launches, probably scheduled for the coming fall and winter, are likely to be soft-landers or semi-softlanders instrumented to make a nonphotographic examination of the lunar surface and, possibly, its subsurface. This assessment is based on:

- An 11 May statement by Soviet Academician Antol Blagonravov that the next Luna series will include a soft-landing attempt "to take a chemical analysis of the surface."
- The opinion that chemical and physical analyses of the Moon's surface are prerequisites to manned landings on the Moon, which evidently are planned by the Soviets.
- The fact that such a mission would be preferable from the propaganda and prestige standpoint to a repeat of the Luna 9 photographic mission, since it might give the Soviets another of several lunar "firsts."

The basic payload vehicle will probably be the same as that of Luna 9, which landed on the Moon on 3 February, but the instrumentation will be different. Based on Soviet announcements and on a Moscow display of a model of Luna 9, FTD estimates Luna 9's instrumentation payload weight as:

Photographic system	26 pounds
Radiation measurement system, including:	
Scintillation counters (2)	8 pounds
Cherenkov counter (1 of the halogen type)	7 pounds

FTD believes that no other instrumentation could have been carried. This instrumentation could be replaced by the following, according to FTD:

Lunar-surface analyzer equipment, including:	25 pounds
Soil-sample collection device	
X-ray diffractometer	
Associated electronic gear	
Seismometer	8 pounds
Micrometeorite detector	7 pounds

However, the Soviets might also choose to install additional batteries, which would lengthen the useful lifetime of the probe, instead of the seismometer and/or micrometeorite detector.

The surface-analyzer equipment would be similar to that planned for the US's Advanced Surveyor missions. The soil-sampling experiment would show not only the chemical composition of the material at the lunar surface but would also give some indication of the surface's bearing strength.





A seismometer would give some indication of the frequency and magnitude of lunar seismic activity, if any; this information, in turn, would tell something about the nature of the lunar interior. It might also help explain why Luna 9 shifted its position after it landed on the Moon.

The micrometeorite detector might be desirable in view of the findings of the Soviets' lunar orbiter, Luna 10, that micrometeorite density is greater in the vicinity of the Moon than it is in interplanetary space.

Most favorable launch dates and times for Soviet-launched lunar soft-landers for the rest of the year are: (All times are plus or minus 5 minutes.)

23 Sep 66	0849Z	21 Nov 66	0919Z
24 Sep 66	0947Z	22 Nov 66	1019Z
23 Oct 66	0934Z	21 Dec 66	1010Z
24 Oct 66	1032Z	22 Dec 66	1115Z

Launches before late September are less likely because the Moon's declination is lower, thereby shortening the number of hours which deep-space stations in the USSR can monitor the probe.

(FTD; NORAD)

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