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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

WIR

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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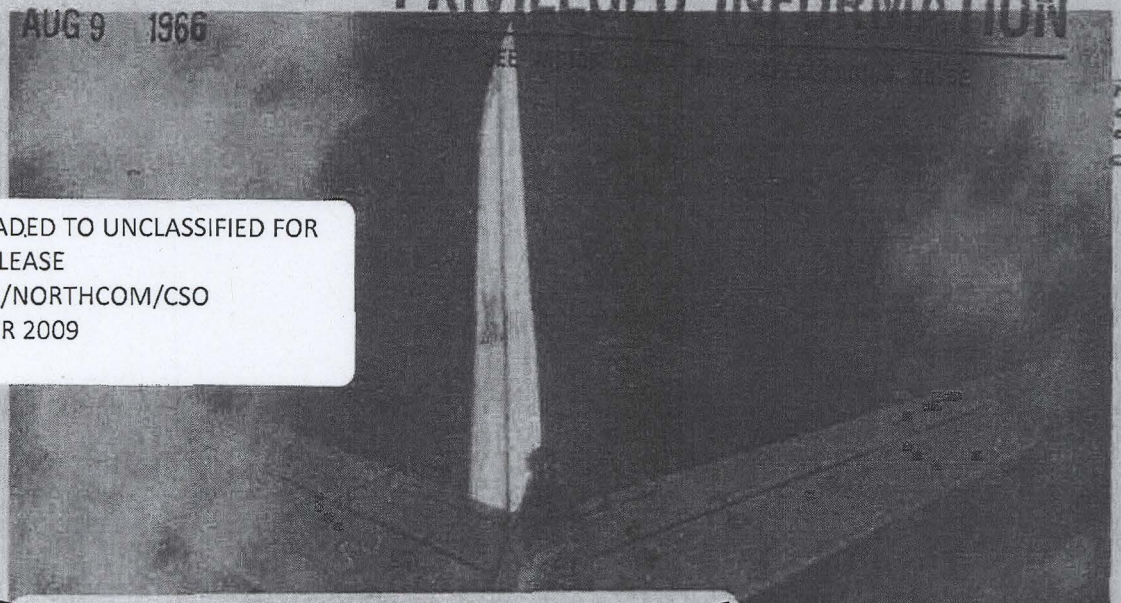

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Issue No. 31/66, 5 August 1966

The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal 2 2 3 3 3

Space

COSMOS 126 IS SOVIETS' 13th RECCE SATELLITE OF 1966 5
Almost a duplicate of Cosmos 124.

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal 6 10 11 17 18

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal 21 22 22 23 24 25 25

COVER: Tail of Soviet bomber (from COMICEDEFOR) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 28, 29, 32 and 33 of this issue are blank.

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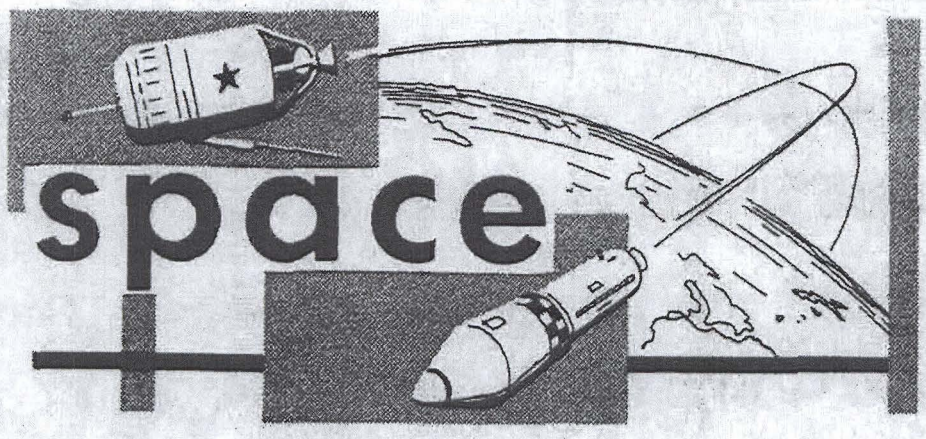

significant intelligence on space developments and trends

Cosmos 126 is Soviets 13th Recce Satellite of 1966

Cosmos 126, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 1050Z, 28 July, has been assessed as a military reconnaissance satellite carrying a high-resolution camera system. The 13th reconnaissance satellite launched by the Soviets this year, its orbital parameters are very close to those of No. 12 (Cosmos 124), according to the NORAD Space Defense Center:

	Cosmos 126	Cosmos 124
Inclination	51.77 degrees	51.8 degrees
Period	89.13 minutes	89.15 minutes
Apogee	275.9 kilometers (149 n.m.)	278.6 kilometers (151 n.m.)
Perigee	202.7 kilometers (109 n.m.)	200 kilometers (108 n.m.)

Cosmos 126's orbital inclination of about 52 degrees is unusual but far from unprecedented. Of the 54 successful Soviet recce satellite launches to date, only 9 have had the 52-degree inclination; these launches occurred only in the months of May-October. The 52-degree inclination allows the satellite to spend more daylight hours over Free World targets -- a factor favorable for photoreconnaissance -- than the commonly used 65-degree inclination.

The new satellite will be de-orbited on 5 August, nearly 8 days after launch, if the pattern of the last 3 years is followed.
(NORAD)
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