

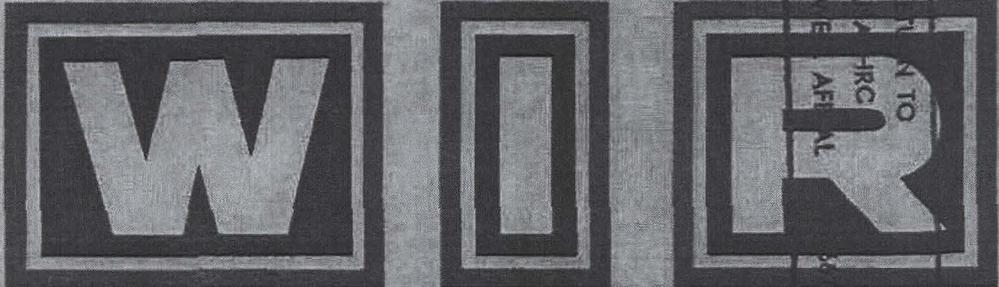
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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

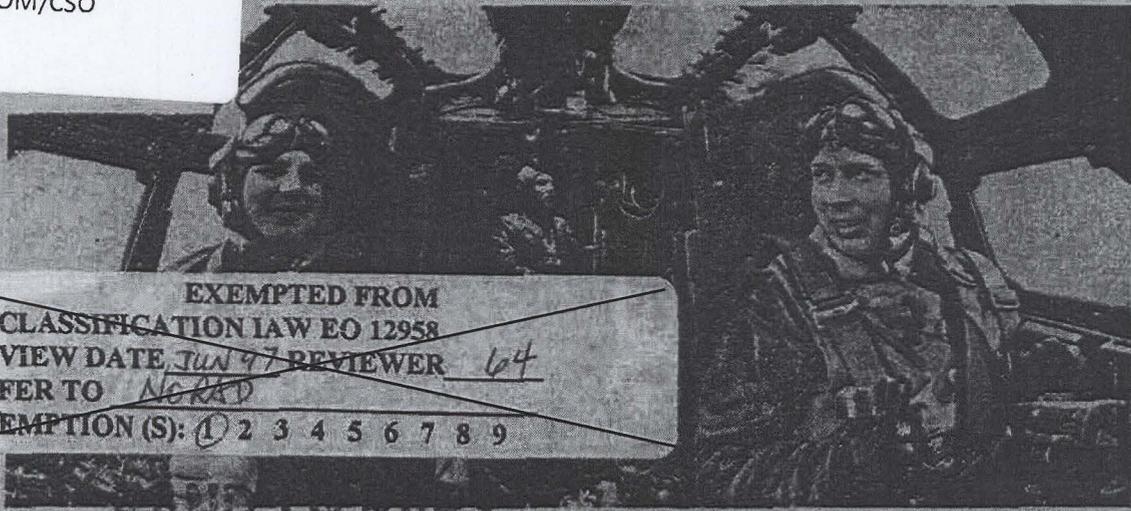
SEE INSIDE COVER FOR SAFEGUARDING GUIDE

H440.607-297

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WIR 43/66
28 Oct 66

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Weekly
Intelligence
Review

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Issue No. 43/66, 28 October 1966

The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Space

RECCE ACTIVITY BACK IN FULL SWING; COSMOS
130 LAUNCHED, NO. 129 DE-ORBITED
2 orbit simultaneously for 22 hours.
4th 'MOLNIYA' COMMUNICATIONS RELAY
SATELLITE LAUNCHED
3d went silent a few months ago.
LUNA 12 LAUNCH; NO PHOTOGRAPHY
ANNOUNCED YET

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

COVER: in the cockpit of a rocket-launching
aircraft (from Red Star)
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NOTE: Pages 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42
and 43 of this issue are blank.

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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Recce Activity Back in Full Swing; Cosmos 130 Launched, No. 129 De-Orbited

Soviet reconnaissance from space is back in full swing after a standdown of about a month and a half. For a brief period (about 22 hours), the Soviets had 2 reconnaissance satellites in orbit simultaneously, an unusual but not unprecedented situation.

Cosmos 130 was launched from the Tyuratam Missile Test Range at about 0847Z, 20 October, into an orbit with an inclination of about 65 degrees. Its mission is probably high-resolution photorecce, although it could easily carry equipment for other missions, such as electronic or infrared reconnaissance.

Cosmos 129, which was launched from the Plesetsk ICBM Complex at about 1215Z, 14 October, was de-orbited on 21 October, during the early portion of Rev 109, impacting in the USSR at about 0640Z, less than 7 days after launch. Most Soviet recce satellites of the past 3 years have been de-orbited slightly less than 8 days after launch. The launch of Cosmos 129 came 48 days after the 27 August launch of Cosmos 128, the last previous Soviet recce satellite. During the first 8 months of 1966, about 2 such vehicles were launched each month. (See chart on page 44.)

(NORAD)

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4th Molniya Communications Relay Satellite Launched

The Soviets launched their fourth communications-relay satellite of the Molniya series from Tyuratam at about 0751Z, 20 October. As with the others, it was launched into a 12-hour orbit with an inclination of 65 degrees and an apogee of roughly 39,700 kilometers (21,000 n. m.). Each day it provides about 9-12 hours of relay of various types of communications, including telephone, telegraph, and TV, between such distant points of the USSR as Moscow and the Soviet Far East.

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The 3d Molniya, which was launched 25 April 1966 has been inactive for several months.

The Molnias, like many other Soviet satellites, have some weight/ space capacity which can be used for accomplishing secondary missions. Molniya 1 is believed to have transmitted radiation-belt data (p. 8 & 9, WIR 44/65); Molniya 2 successfully tested relay of color TV between Paris and Moscow (WIR 3/66); and Molniya 3 transmitted to the Earth video coverage of part of the Northern Hemisphere taken at a distance of roughly 40,000 kilometers (WIR 21/66), possibly in a test of the usefulness of cloud-cover photography of large portions of the Earth's surface.

The Soviets have been launching Molnias about 6 months apart. (See chart on page 41.)

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Luna 12 Launched, No Photography Announced Yet

The Soviets launched Luna 12, their third lunar orbiter, from Tyuratam at about 0843Z, 22 October, using the propulsion system and flight profile of its two predecessors -- Luna 10 and Luna 11 -- which were launched, respectively, 31 March and 24 August 1966.

Luna 12 is probably collecting data on the Moon and its space environment, as did its predecessors. There is no indication yet that any photography is being transmitted back to Earth. This was not part of the announced mission, but then the Soviets ordinarily do not announce photographic missions from space until they have been accomplished. Photography, however, is probably intended.

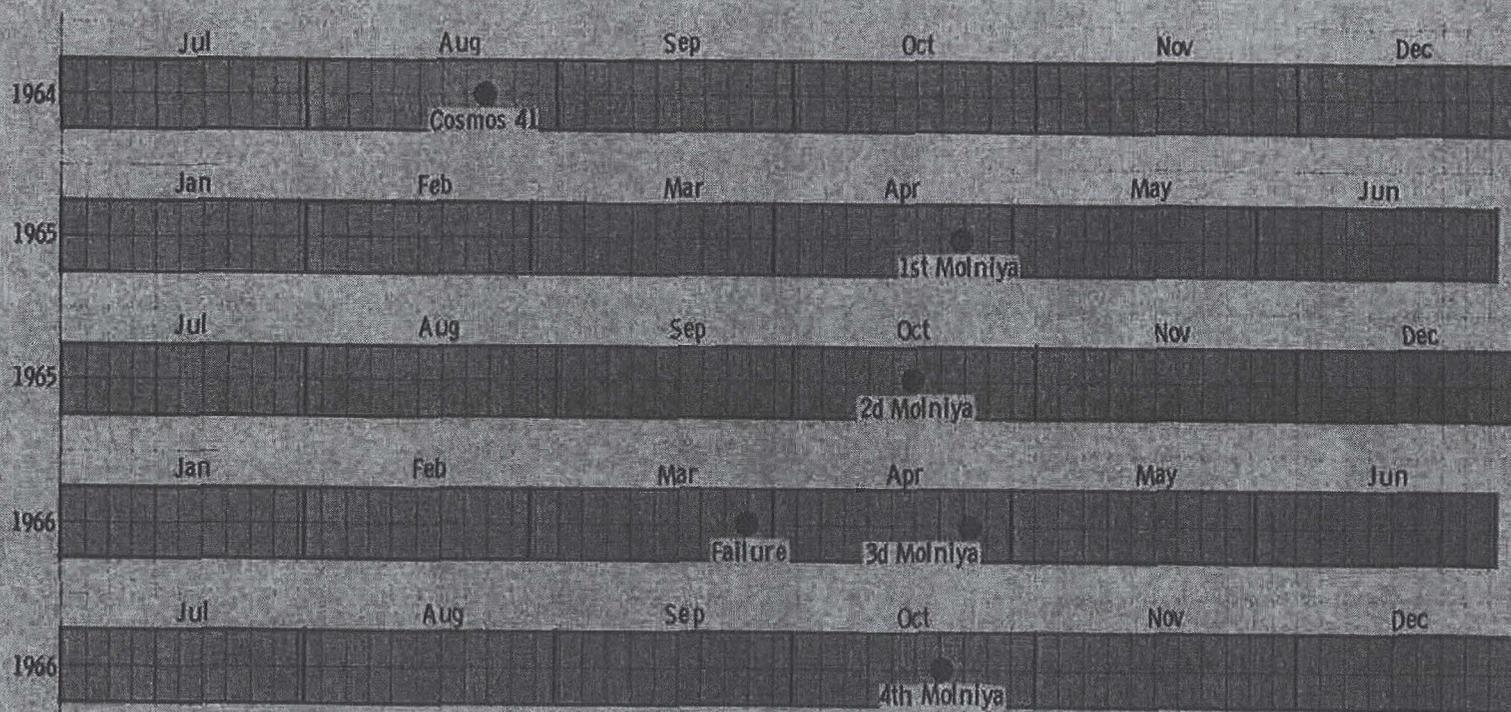
- Luna 11 failed in the photographic part of its mission and it is likely that Luna 12 was intended to make up the deficiency. (The UK's Jodrell Bank Radio Astronomy Observatory received video signals from Luna 11 but was unable to decipher them. Apparently the signals were defective, for the Soviets never released or announced any video -- an indication of failure.)
- The Soviets need good lunar photography in order to select sites for manned landings a few years hence.
- The Soviets would gain much in prestige if they could obtain better pictures of the Moon's surface than were obtained by the US's Lunar Orbiter; the high-resolution video system of the latter failed to function satisfactorily.

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Molniya-Series Communications-Relay Satellites (Soviet)
 -- Intervals Between Launches



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Cosmos 41 achieved orbit similar to Molniyas'. Probably intended to relay video of Tokyo Olympic Games (1964) to Europe, but satellite failed to transmit. Reported as Cosmos research vehicle to conceal failure.

Soviet launch failure of 27 March tentatively assessed as Molniya failure on basis of telemetry characteristics.

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Soviet Military Reconnaissance Satellites (most of the recoverable Cosmoses)

Cosmos 130, launched
20 Oct, omitted; will
be added to this chart
when it is de-orbited.

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The Soviets claim their Cosmos satellites are research vehicles, but those cited above are believed to be primarily military reconnaissance satellites. Their orbits were uniformly so low that they could have collected intelligence data of value for space research.

All were suitable for photorecon: 1) Launches were timed so that payloads passed over Free World targets in

daylight and when they would be closest to Earth (at perigee); 2) perigees were low; 3) payloads were stable with reference to the Earth's surface; 4) payloads were active over potential photorecon targets; 5) some payloads changed attitude, as if to cover off-targets; 6) those launched were de-orbited except for Cosmos 50, which exploded when de-orbit was attempted.

Some vehicles may have conducted IR or UV reconnaissance. Certain payloads are suspected of having assisted in test of IR and/or UV missile launch detection systems.

All were launched by SS-6 ICBM and injected into orbit by either light Zank 3d stage or by heavy Yank 3d stage. Payload weight range: 10,000-15,000 lbs. Estimated camera resolution: 20-30' for most Zank-injected payloads; 5-8' for most Yank-injected payloads.

Most of the de-orbits during 1964-1966 occurred slightly less than 6 days after launch.

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