

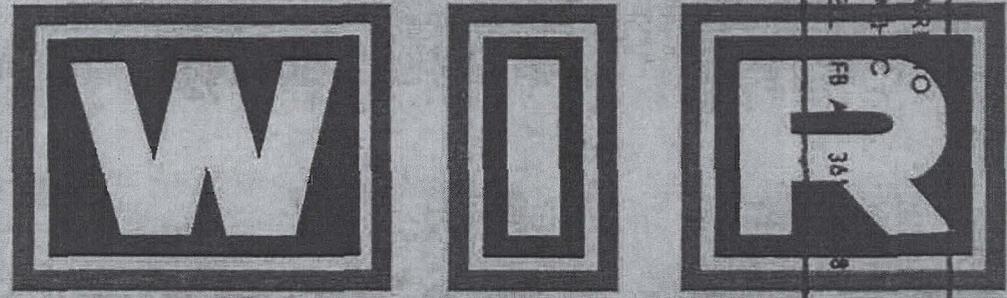
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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

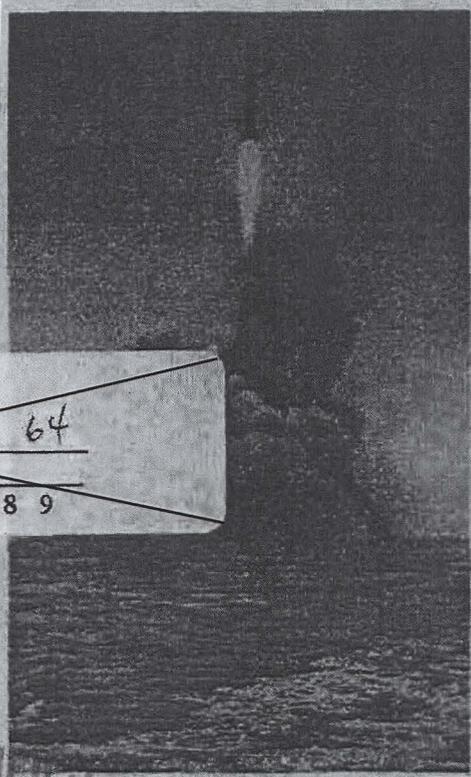
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# NORAD

Weekly  
Intelligence  
Review

Issue No. 50/66, 16 December 1966

## The WIR in Brief

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### Space

SOVIET DEEP-SPACE TRACKING ENHANCED BY  
INSTALLATION OF TWO OPTICAL TELESCOPES  
E. German instruments are installed in USSR  
and Czechoslovakia.

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COVER: Red Star photo shows missile fired from submarine, probably when surfaced. Unit is allegedly E-Class (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 25, 28, 29 and 32 of this issue are blank.

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significant  
intelligence  
on space  
developments  
and trends

### New Soviet Optical Telescope Will Enhance Deep-Space Tracking

Alla Masevich, vice chairman of the USSR Academy of Sciences Astronomical Council, was interviewed at a recent dedication of the 2-meter telescope at the Azerbaydzhan Astrophysical Observatory near Shemakha. She disclosed that one of the tasks assigned to the new optical telescope is to assist in the control of space probes such as the Luniks and interplanetary stations.

On 18 October the Czech Daily Press announced the installation of a 2-meter optical telescope at the Ondrejov Observatory near Prague. This telescope is expected to be operational by April 1967 and will be used for stellar astronomy and the observation of artificial earth satellites.

In the past, optical tracking of deep space probes has been assigned to the Crimean Astrophysical Observatory, which has the only instrument capable of carrying out such an operation. The primary purpose of such optical tracking is the precise determination of the trajectory so that an accurate midcourse correction can be made. The Shemakha telescope will be an excellent backstop for the observatory on the Black Sea in the event cloud cover should occur after launch. It can also add more precision to the determination of the trajectory when both observatories can simultaneously photograph the position of the spacecraft. The new telescope is located at an observatory which has been operating for years and where the sky conditions are among the best in the Soviet Union.

The new telescope in Czechoslovakia is apparently identical to the one at the Azerbaydzhan Observatory. Both instruments were built by the Karl Zeiss works in Jena, East Germany.

The new facility near Prague will no doubt cooperate with the Soviet optical tracking network for artificial earth satellites. It will also have the capability of tracking deep space probes for precise midcourse corrections. The new telescope can assist in obtaining the much needed precision by observing deep space probes at the same time that the Crimean and Azerbaydzhan observatories measure the probes' position. If weather permits, all

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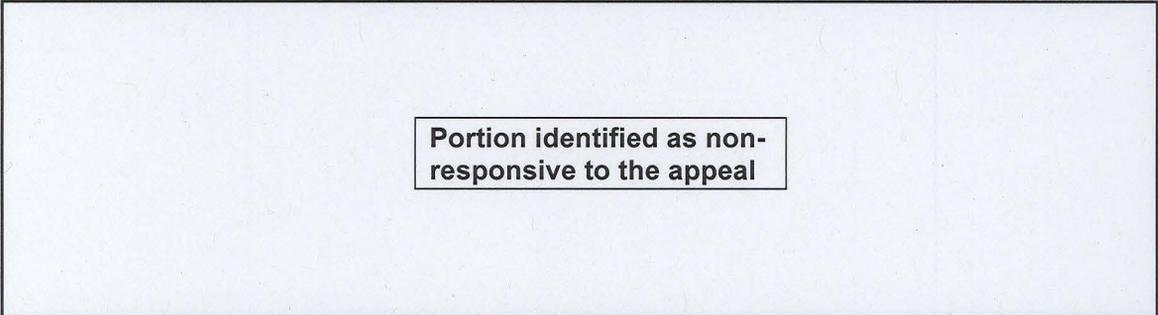


three stations could photograph the probe, providing parallax measurements which could locate the position and determine the trajectory of space stations with much greater precision than has been possible in past deep-space operations. The Ondrejov telescope could also be expected to back-stop the other observatories in the event of cloud cover.

It appears that the telescope will be completed in time for the next Venus launch window in mid-1967.

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