

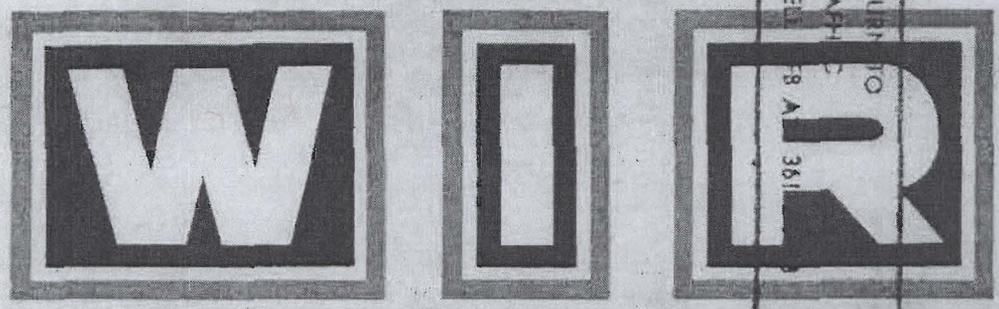
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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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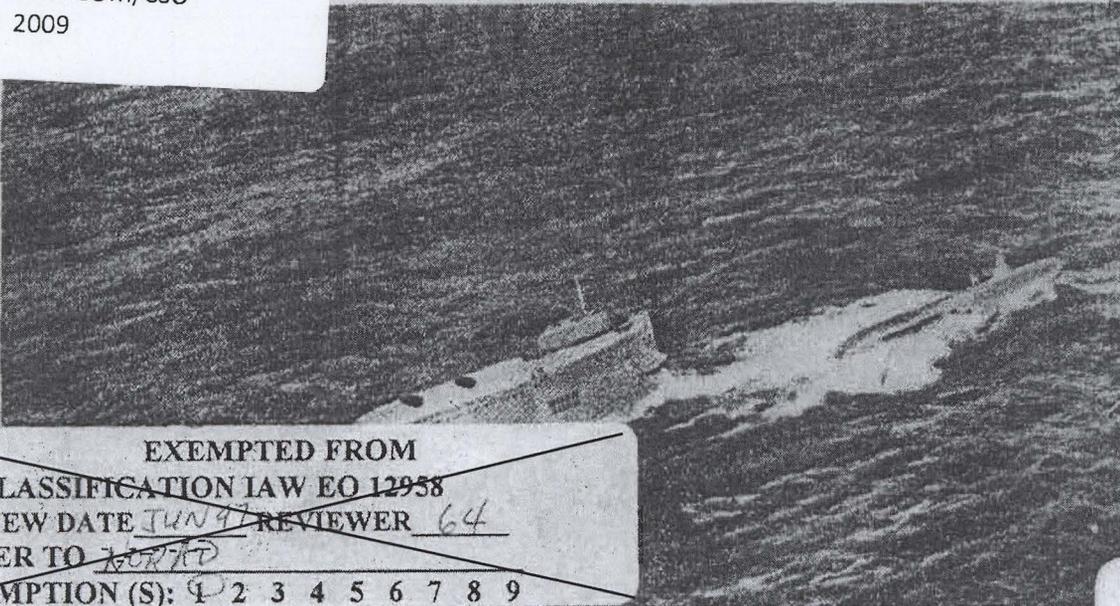
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# NORAD

## Weekly Intelligence Review

Issue No. 12/67, 24 March 1967

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### The WIR in Brief

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50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

**Space**

COSMOS 148 BELIEVED TO BE FIRST SCIENTIFIC SATELLITE LAUNCHED FROM PLESETSK

BETTER PHOTO OF COSMOS 97, WHICH CARRIED MASER INTO SPACE, PRESENTED

From Soviet press.

'MOLNIYA' LAUNCH DUE SOON; GROUND STATION NET GROWING

Molniyas usually launched 6 months apart.

WEATHER DATA FROM COSMOS 144 SENT TO U.S. ONCE DAILY, MUCH OF IT OLDER THAN AGREED

Investia gives some details on Cosmos 144 equipment.

9  
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Party Central Committee may be missing.

COVER: Soviet missile-launching submarine (from Red Star) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 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

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### Cosmos 148 Believed to Be the First Scientific Satellite Launched from Plesetsk

Cosmos 148, which the Soviets launched from Plesetsk at about 1732Z, 16 March, is believed to be a scientific satellite, as claimed by the Soviets. Although [REDACTED]

it is possible that its mission included the use of passive reconnaissance sensors which are not readily identified.

This operation was unusual in at least 2 respects, if Cosmos 148 is a scientific satellite:

- It would be the first scientific satellite launched from Plesetsk.
- It also would be the first Soviet scientific satellite to have an orbital inclination of 71 degrees. Those launched from Kapustin Yar had inclinations of about 49 degrees. (Satellites launched from Plesetsk would have orbital inclinations of at least 63 degrees, the latitude of the launch site.)

The Cosmos 148 operation points up the increasing role being accorded to the Plesetsk launch complex. The first space launch at Plesetsk occurred 17 March 1966. Eleven satellites have now been launched from that location -- 9 reconnaissance satellites, 1 meteorological satellite, and Cosmos 148. There has also been one failure at Plesetsk of a launch in which a space vehicle is believed to have been involved.

(NORAD)

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## Better Photo of Cosmos 97, Which Carried Maser into Space, Presented

A Soviet press photo of Cosmos 97, a satellite which carried an ammonia maser into space, is presented on page 33. This picture is much better than the one from the press which was published on page 37, WIR 45/66. (For more on Cosmos 97, which was launched 26 November 1965, see WIRs 4/67, 45/66, and 49/65.)

(NORAD)  
(UNCLASSIFIED)

## Molniya Launch Due Soon; Ground-Station Net Growing

The regularity of the 6-month intervals between launches of Molniya communications-relay satellites suggests that the 5th member of the series may be launched in late April (see chart on page 37). Although all four satellites remain in orbit, the 4th Molniya is the only one that is still operating.

The number of Molniya ground stations reported under construction by the Soviets is constantly increasing. According to the Soviet press, receiver stations are being built at Vorkuta and Syktyvkar, in addition to others previously reported. (See map on page 36.)

(NORAD)  
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## Weather Data from Cosmos 144 Sent to US Once Daily, Much of it Older Than Agreed

The Soviets are sending data from their new weather satellite, Cosmos 144, to Washington only once a day, as they did from their first operational weather satellite, Cosmos 122. As a result, much of the data received in Washington is older than the 6 hours stipulated in the agreement for operational usage.

Cosmos 144 instrumentation appears to be essentially the same as that of Cosmos 122 (compare the photo on page 40 of this issue with the one on page 37, WIR 10/67). However, the Soviet press (Izvestia, 17 March) has released some information about Cosmos 144 not given for Cosmos 122. Izvestia stated, among other things, that:

- There are "many thousands" of "photoelements" on the solar panels.
- Semiconductor transformers are used to transform the direct current from the batteries into the alternating current of various cyclicities needed by the various motors and equipment of Cosmos 144.



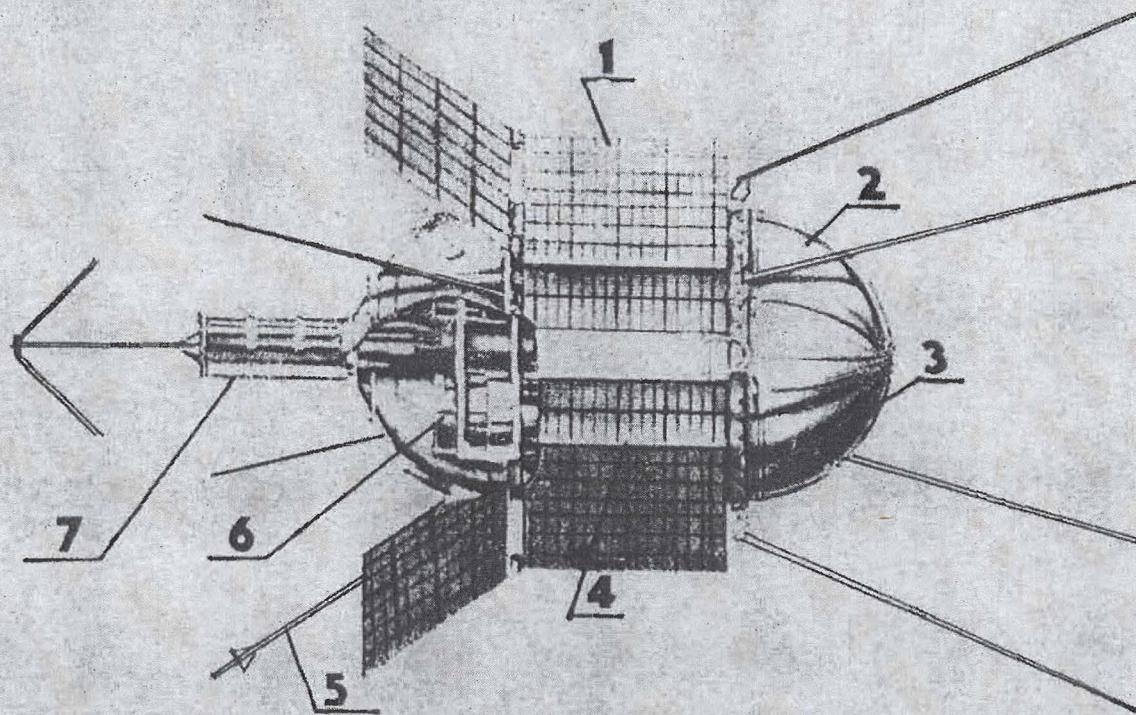


- The satellite is Earth-oriented by means of a power-driven system of flywheels.
- The video apparatus is automatically switched on when the Sun is 5 degrees above the horizon.
- An automatic exposure device used with the video adjusts for target brightness.
- The 2 TV cameras cover a swath 1,000 kilometers wide; the IR video swath is 1,100 km wide, and, expectedly, has less resolution.
- Two wide-angle cameras which can cover the entire side of the Earth visible from the satellite are carried, in addition to the video equipment.

(Izvestia; NORAD)  
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Cosmos 97, Scientific Satellite  
Which Tested a Maser in Space



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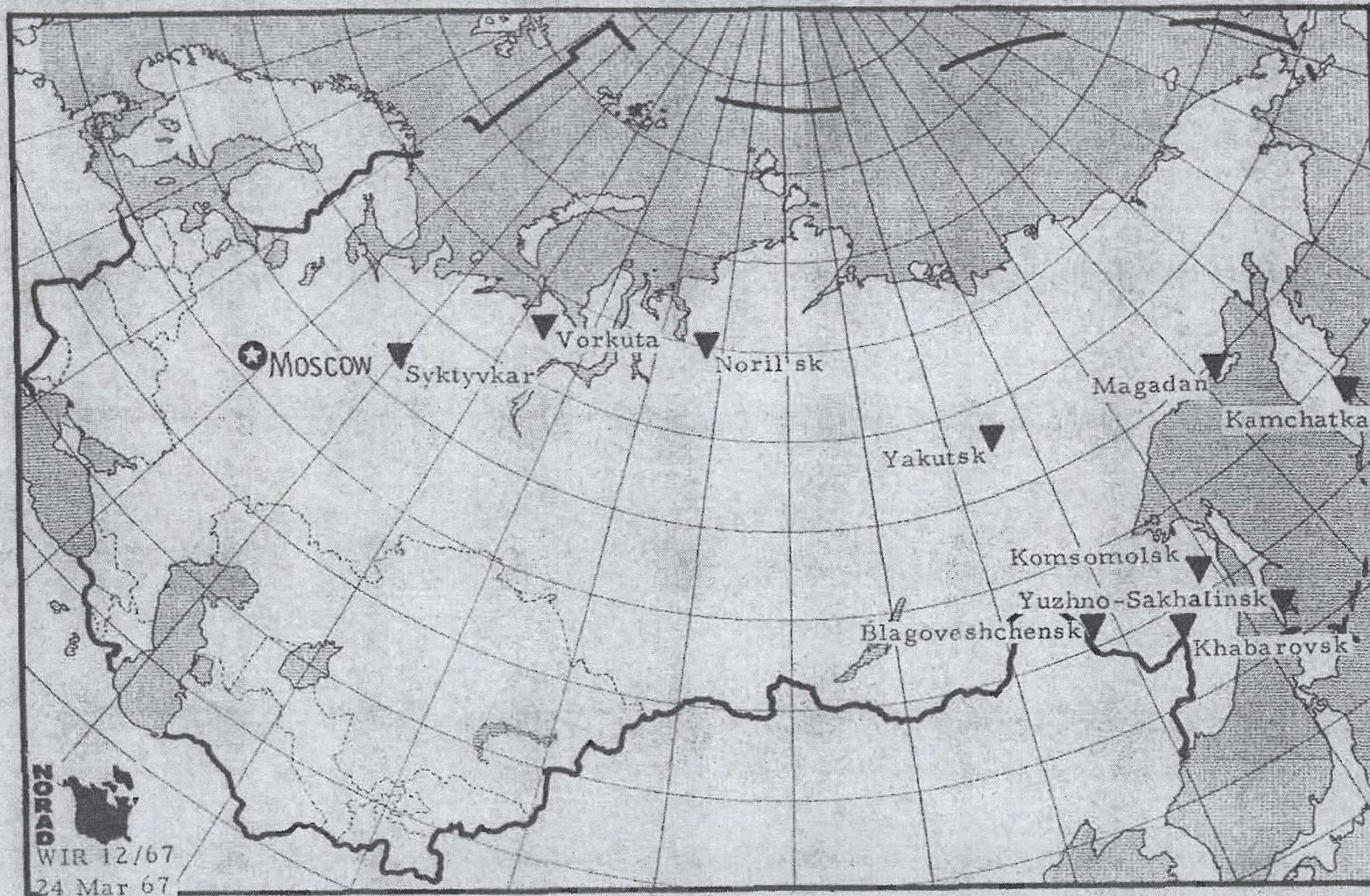


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1. Solar cells.
2. Storage batteries
3. Heat regulator
4. Support equipment
5. Orientation sensor
6. Scientific apparatus
7. Molecular generator

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Ground Terminals for Communications via  
the Soviets' Molniya-type Satellites

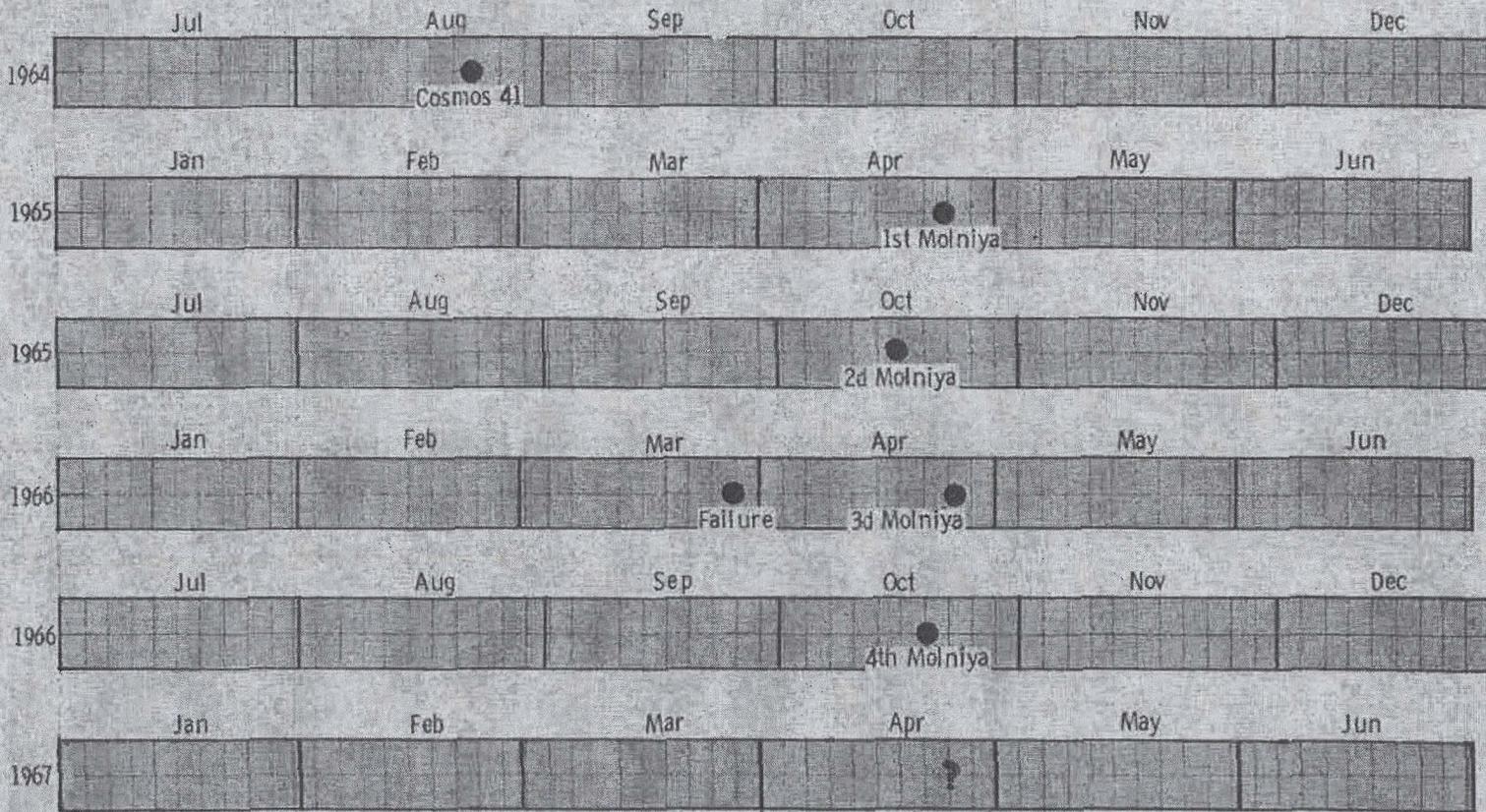


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# Molniya Launches, and Suspected Molniya Launches



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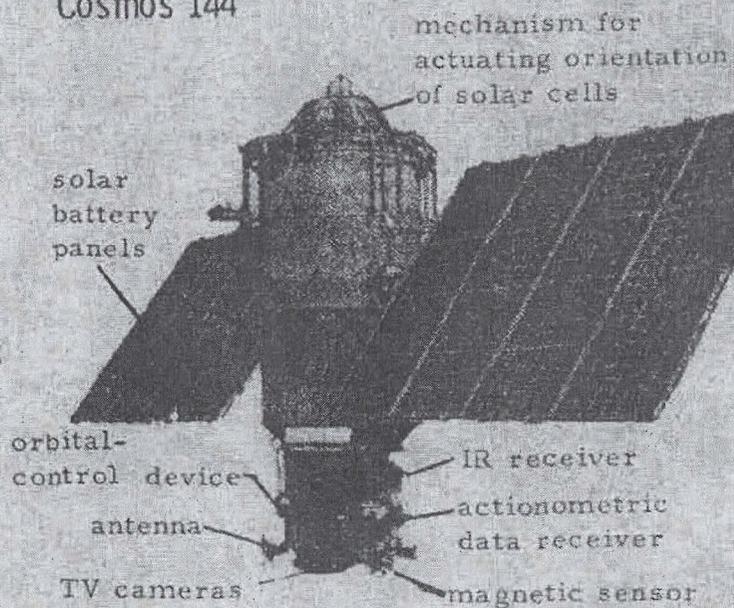
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Cosmos 144 -- Soviet  
Weather Satellite  
(Izvestia photos)

Cosmos 144



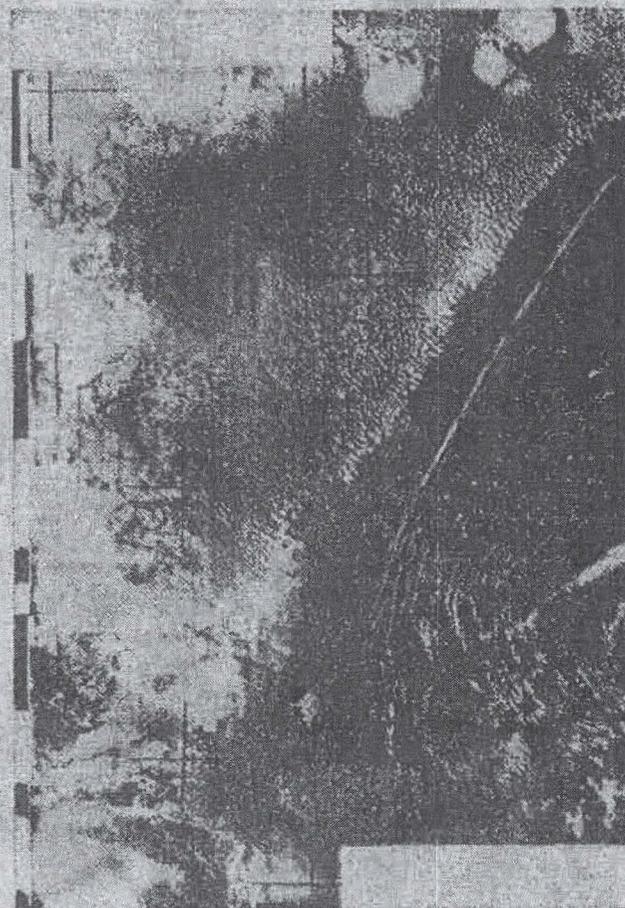
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Cosmos 144 Video of  
East Coast of Africa,

East coast of Africa, north of Zanzibar.  
Video by Cosmos 144, 2 March, 1601  
hours (probably Moscow time) on its  
29th orbit