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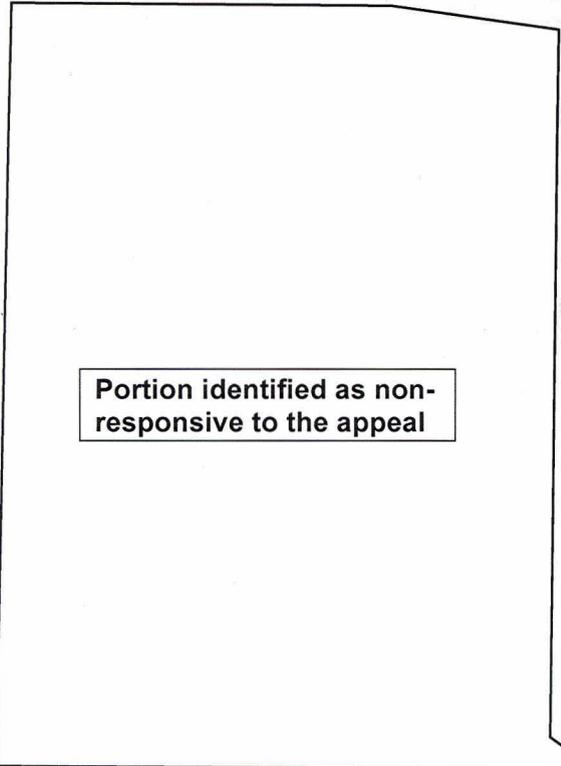
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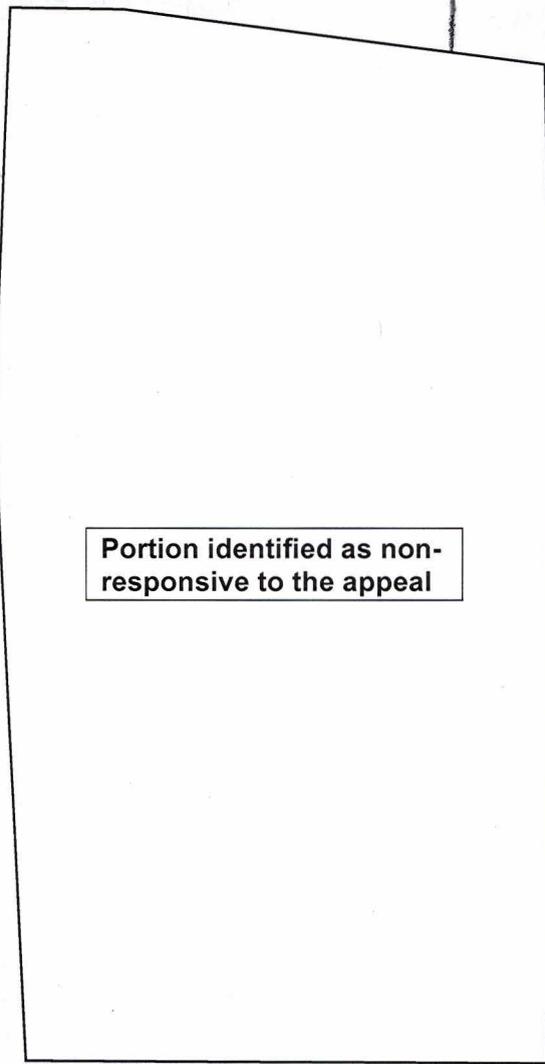
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Issue No. 24/67, 16 June 1967

The WIR in Brief



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12
13
14
16
17
18
19
19
20
20
20
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Space

RECCE SATELLITE COSMOS 162 DE-ORBITED
ROUTINELY; COSMOS 164 BROUGHT DOWN EARLY 7
Cosmos 164 orbited only 6 days.
EARTH-RESOURCES SATELLITES BEING CON-
SIDERED IN U.S.S.R.; COULD HAVE SUBSTANTIAL
ECONOMIC VALUE 7
Could evaluate plant and forest resources and
diseases, for instance.
COSMOS 165 MISSION NOT KNOWN BUT MAY BE
SCIENTIFIC 8
Similar in many respects to Cosmos 152.
VENUS PROBE LAUNCHED; OTHERS MAY FOLLOW 9
Launched by usual SL-6 system.

COVER: Missile firing by OSA-Class patrol boat
(Red Star) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)
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-1-

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space

significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Recce Satellite Cosmos 162 De-orbited Routinely; Cosmos 164 Brought Down Early

Cosmos 162, a Soviet medium-resolution photorecce satellite and possible ELINT collector was de-orbited on Revolution 129, on 9 June, nearly 8 days after launch.

Cosmos 164, also a medium-resolution photorecce satellite and possible ELINT collector, was launched from the Plesetsk space and missile complex at about 1300Z, 8 June, into an orbit having an inclination of about 65 degrees. In an unusual but not unprecedented development, it was de-orbited six days later (instead of the usual eight days), on Revolution 93. Another unusual but not unprecedented feature of this launch was use of the heavy Venik stage instead of the usual Lunik stage with a medium-resolution recce satellite; this substitution has occurred only twice before -- on Cosmoes 120 and 124, which were orbited, respectively, on 8 June and 14 July 1966.

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Earth-Resources Satellites Being Considered in USSR; Could Have Substantial Economic Value

A recent press article by Cosmonaut P. R. Popovich contains the most direct Soviet reference yet to the possible use of Earth-resources satellites by the USSR. Popovich quoted scientists as saying that in the near future satellites could be used to evaluate crop and forest resources on a large scale, to detect major areas of plant diseases, forest and steppe fires, and locust infestations, and to find unused land suitable for working. Manned orbital stations, he said, could be used to locate deposits of minerals, provide warning of earthquakes and volcanic eruption, determine sea states, and determine the distribution of marine fauna and flora.

Popovich's statement suggests that the Soviets are seriously considering the development of Earth-resources satellites. Moscow has frequently cast its cosmonauts in the role of quasi-official spokesmen for its space program, to

-7-

WIR 24/67 16 Jun 1967

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give general indications of forthcoming events without committing the regime to a set schedule.

Satellite surveillance could be beneficial to the USSR in several ways; for example,

- Satellite surveys of large crop and forested areas of the US could be made with more speed and less expense than land-based surveys.
- The good-will of less-developed countries could be gained by conducting surveys for them of their territories or adjacent seas.

Some of the applications mentioned by Popovich are within current Soviet state of the art, but others probably have not been developed yet to the point that they can be used successfully from satellite altitudes. Developmental sensors for an earth-resources-surveillance program could be tested aboard special payloads designed for the purpose (probably bearing the Cosmos designation) or aboard other scheduled satellite payloads as secondary missions.

Similarly, operational sensors for the program could be installed on special payloads or as secondary-mission equipment on other payloads, depending on how quickly the information is needed and/or on how wide or detailed is the coverage required. For instance, missions requiring high-resolution sensors might have to be flown on recoverable-type satellites at relatively low altitudes. Missions requiring wide coverage could be flown on meteorological or communications satellites or on special Earth-resources satellites. Data from the sensors could be transmitted on a real-time basis by video or telemetry or as soon as possible after. Popovich also mentioned, of course, the use of manned orbital stations for certain missions.

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Cosmos 165 Mission Not Known But May Be Scientific

The mission of Cosmos 165, which the Soviets launched from the Plesetsk space and missile complex at about 1808Z, 12 June, is not known, but it may be scientific in nature, as TASS has claimed. Its orbital parameters have been reported as follows by NORAD Space Defense Center:

Inclination	81.9 degrees
Period	101.93 minutes
Apogee	1518.2 kilometers (815 n.m.)
Perigee	181.3 kilometers (96.7 n.m.)

152: Cosmos 165's mission may be the same as or similar to that of Cosmos and their radar signatures

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are similar. Both were launched from Plesetsk by a propulsion system which has not been identified yet but may be the SL-7, a small two-stage system normally used to launch small scientific spacecraft from Kapustin Yar.

Cosmos 165's orbital inclination is much higher than Cosmos 152's (81.9 degrees vs 70.9), its apogee is more than three times as high, and its perigee is only 71% as high, resulting in a much more eccentric orbit; however, these differences could indicate a variation in coverage for the same type of mission, rather than a different mission.

The Soviets previously have used the 81-degree inclination only for their meteorological satellites.

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Venus Probe Launched Others May Follow

The Soviets launched Venus 4, a probe of the planet Venus, from the Tyuratam missile test range at about 0240Z, 12 June. As with all other Soviet interplanetary attempts, Venus 4 was launched by the SS-6 ICBM booster-sustainer (which was shown at the recent Paris Air Show), injected into orbit by the heavy Venik third stage, and ejected into a trajectory toward Venus by the Soviets' interplanetary fourth stage. The new probe is expected to reach the vicinity of Venus and mid-October.

This is the Soviets' 11th known Venus-probe attempt. None of the previous attempts has been completely successful, and none has resulted in any new knowledge of Venus, although some of the probes transmitted data about interplanetary space. (The record is much the same for the Soviets' six Mars-probe attempts.)

The Soviets have probably planned two or three Venus-probe launches during this Venus window, as they did in November 1965, when they launched three Venus probes (Venus 2 and Venus 3, and Cosmos 96 -- the latter never left Earth orbit). If so, one or two more launches should follow Venus 4 before the end of June.

The 1965 Probes. Venus 2 and Venus 3 were launched during the last Venus window, on 12 and 16 November 1965, respectively. Both were to collect and transmit data about the interplanetary space environment, and both were to collect and transmit data about Venus. Venus 2, however, was to pass the planet at a distance and transmit data which could be collected during a flyby, whereas Venus 3 was to impact on the planet, measuring temperature and pressure at various levels as it passed through Venus's atmosphere. Cosmos 96, launched on 23 November 1965, was apparently a back-up for either Venus 2 or Venus 3. None of these three 1965 attempts was fully successful. Venus 2, apparently failing to carry out a midcourse correction, missed Venus by about 100,000 miles. The Soviets said that its communications failed as it reached the vicinity of Venus. Venus 3 also suffered communications





failure, dishearteningly for the Soviets, shortly before arrival at Venus. Cosmos 96's fourth-stage engine failed to eject the payload into interplanetary trajectory.

The Current Venus Operations. The present (1967) Venus window is a very favorable one in terms of energy requirements, arrival conditions, flight times, and communication distances. Also, arrival of Soviet probe(s) by mid-October or early November would allow the USSR to announce their success(es) in time for the 50th Anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, which will be celebrated on 7 November.

The US has launched Mariner 5 in a planned flyby of Venus, similar to the successful Mariner 2 mission of 1962 except that Mariner 5's mission includes an occultation experiment. (As it passes Venus on its far side (with respect to the Earth), Mariner 5 will transmit radio waves towards the Earth through the atmosphere of Venus; changes in these waves as received on the Earth should reveal something about the atmosphere of Venus.)

The Soviets, in contrast, may be planning an orbiter or lander mission, or both, for their 1967 Venus operations. Arrival conditions at Venus for the current launch window are favorable for such missions; either one, if successful, could be represented as surpassing US accomplishments.

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