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NORAD

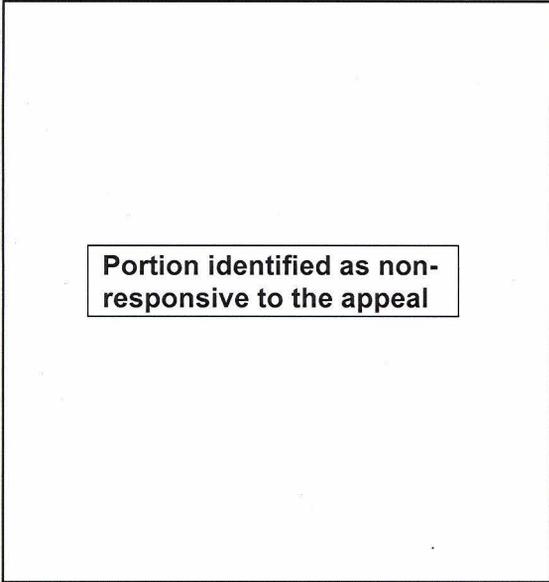
Issue No. 26/67, 30 June 1967

Weekly
Intelligence
Review

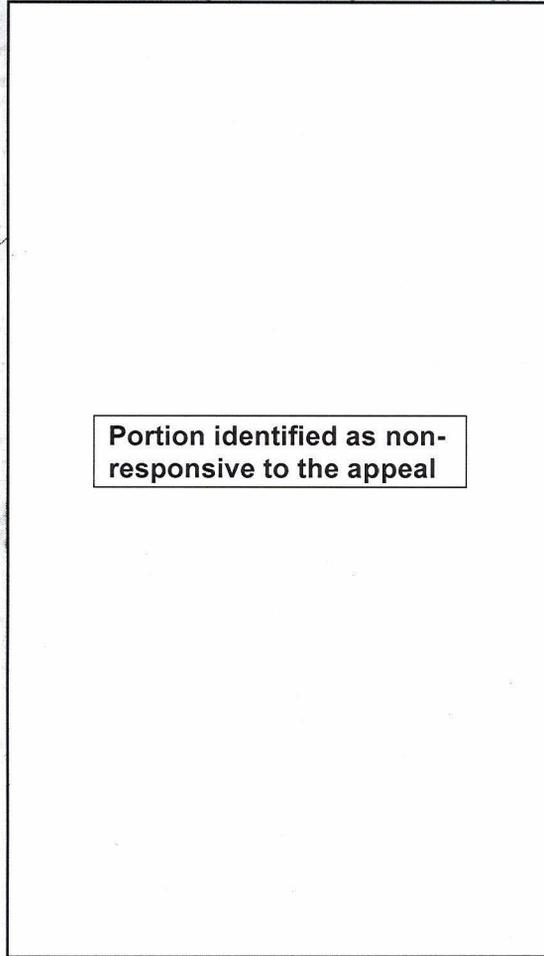
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The WIR in Brief



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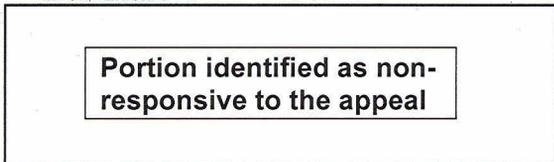
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Space

SPACE-SUPPORT FLEET BEING ENLARGED AND MODERNIZED

New class ship has 2 large, 1 smaller radome.
COSMOS 159 MAY BE STUDYING VAN ALLEN BELTS,
COSMOS 165 THE AURORA BOREALIS

Their orbits carry them through respective zones of interest.



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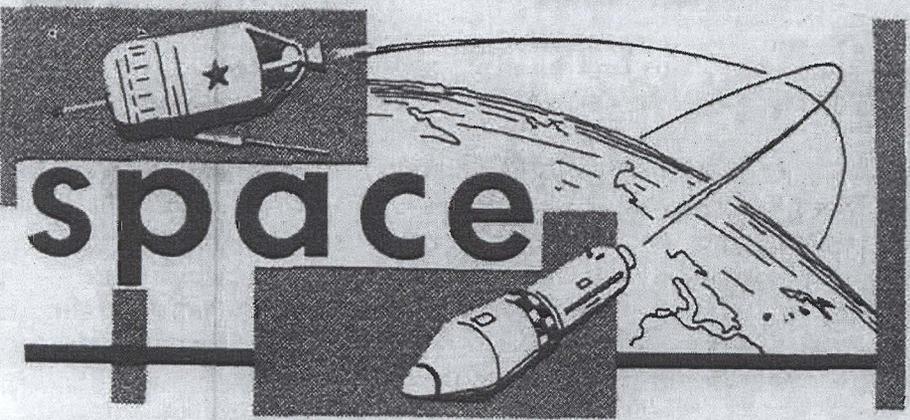
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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Space-Support Fleet Being Enlarged and Modernized

The Soviets are continuing to expand and modernize their world-wide fleet of instrumentation ships which support space operations and extended-range missile firings. The active fleet, which augments the USSR-based tracking network, now consists of 15 vessels, of which seven have been added since last fall.

The latest addition, an elaborately instrumented ship, completed its outfitting in Leningrad last month. It is a large-hatch POLTAVA-Class cargo ship -- believed to be the Genichevsk -- equipped with two 65-foot radar domes, one 25-foot dome, and small telemetry receiving antennas. Each 65-foot dome could house a radar nearly twice as big as the largest Soviet shipborne radars, now carried by two instrumentation ships in the Pacific, thus considerably enhancing the capabilities of the space support fleet. The new ship is similar in size and instrumentation to the new US space and missile tracking ships, which also are merchant ships converted especially to support the Apollo manned space program. (Drawing & photo on page 20.)

The Genichevsk is a sister ship of the Bezhitsa, which began its duties last February and is currently operating in the South Atlantic. But neither the Bezhitsa nor the Borovichi, another of the seven latest additions to this fleet, is outfitted with large radar antennas. Photography of the others is not yet available, but at least some of them could be equipped with advanced space-tracking gear.

(CIA)

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Cosmos 159 May Be Studying Van Allen Belts, Cosmos 165 the Aurora Borealis

Cosmos 159, which was launched on 16 May from Tyuratam into a high and very eccentric orbit (apogee -- 60,600 km (32,500 n.m.), perigee 380 km (208 n.m.)) is believed to be collecting data on the Van Allen belts. This spacecraft penetrates the region of highest electron concentration of the belt

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at least once each orbital period. The last known Soviet satellites which measured electron concentrations in these regions were Electrons 2 and 4, launched in 1964.

Cosmos 165, which was launched on 12 June from Plesetsk into an eccentric orbit (apogee -- 1518 km (813 n.m.), perigee 181 km (97 n.m.)) is believed to be investigating sun spot activities and collecting data on the related auroral phenomena. Its perigee lies in or near the zone of maximum occurrence of the aurora, and there is an indication that it may carry suitable instrumentation: Cosmos 165 resembles the Cosmos 123 payload, which included energetic-particle and infrared-radiation detectors.

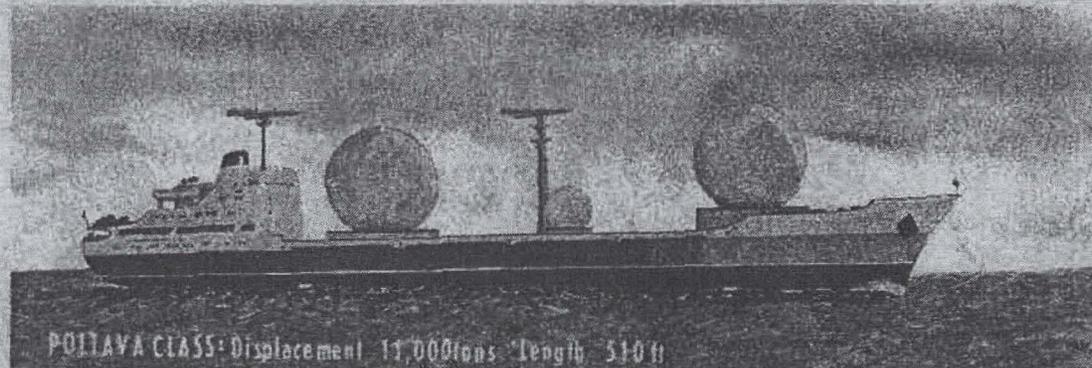
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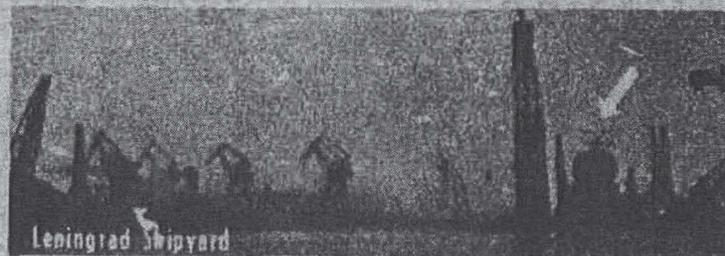
New Soviet Space/Missile-Range
Instrumentation Ship, POLTAVA-Class

CIA



(drawing)

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(photo)

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WIR 26/67
30 Jun 67