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INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL,
E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2009-068, document no. 186
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 14, 2015

NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

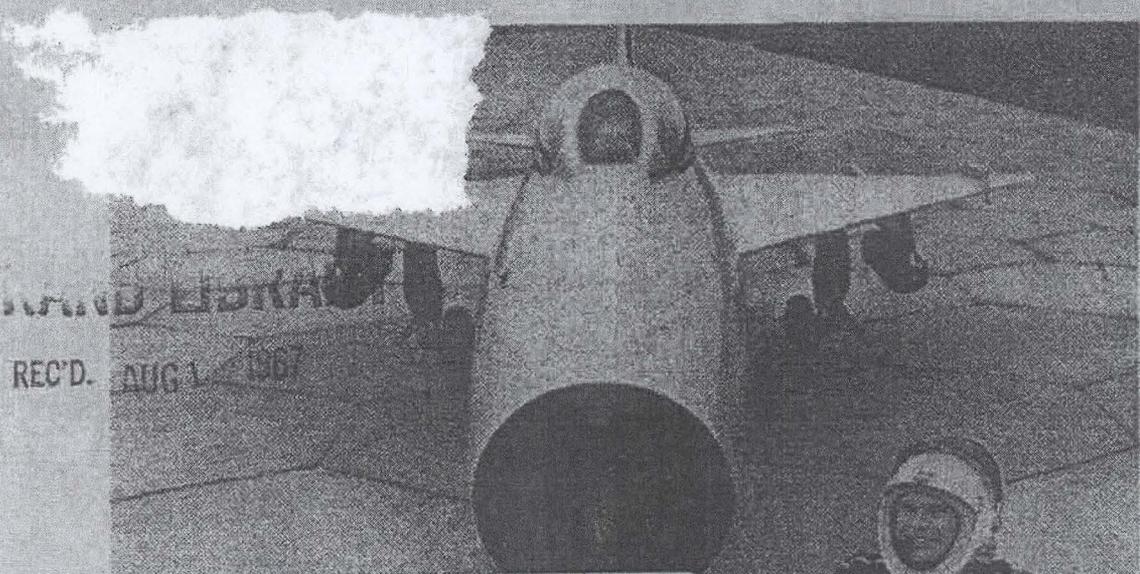
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WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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REVIEW DATE JUN 97 REVIEWER 64
REFER TO NCRAD
EXEMPTION (S): 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9~~

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Weekly
Intelligence
Review

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K410. 607-337

Issue No. 30/67, 28 July 1967

The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

SOVIET ELINT.
A review of the program.

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Space

SECOND PROBABLE PHOTORECCE SATELLITE
LAUNCH FAILURE OF 1967 DETECTED

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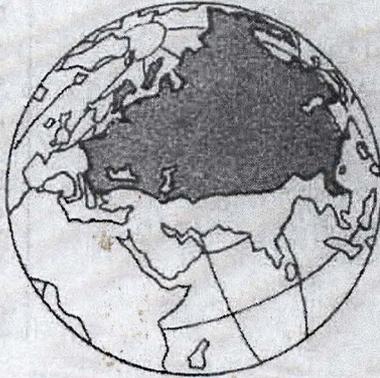
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**COMMUNIST
MILITARY
CAPABILITIES**



current
developments
and trends in
the armed forces
of the
Communist World

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Soviet
ELINT

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Spaceborne Collection. When the Soviets began to launch their recoverable Cosmos satellites in 1962, it was suspected that these craft were reconnaissance vehicles, probably carrying cameras and, possibly, ELINT collection gear. Camera activity was identified [redacted] at an early date.

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526



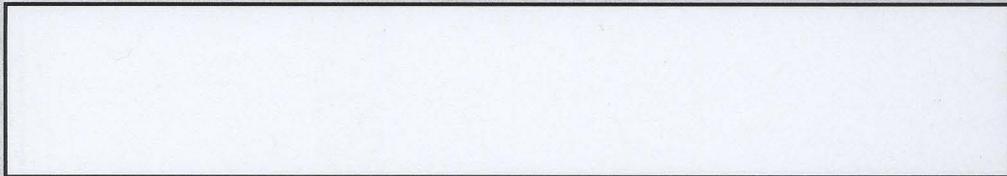


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Evidence of ELINT collection was first discovered [redacted] from Cosmos 32, which was launched in June 1964. Later analyses indicated that the recoverable Cosmoses which carry medium-resolution camera systems as a rule are also ELINT collectors.

In the case of Cosmos 32, [redacted] after the payload passed over the mid-Atlantic, Europe, and the USSR, indicated that:

- The vehicle had been monitoring a ground-based rotating source (such as the antenna of a search radar).



The [redacted] readout probably represented only a fraction of the ELINT collected -- enough to assure ground controllers that the payload was working properly and, possibly, to aid in programing operations on forthcoming orbits. The main data "take" undoubtedly was recorded on tapes, to be recovered along with the photorecce film after de-orbit of the satellite.

No ELINT-type [redacted] has been detected yet from the high-resolution photorecce Cosmoses, although it is possible that these vehicles also collect ELINT but do so without revealing their operations in [redacted]

Satellite-borne ELINT collection is advantageous in that it permits:

- "Viewing" a given emitter as many as four times per day, if desired.
- Collection on a line-of-sight basis of emissions from areas which cannot be reached by any other means.
- Coverage of vast areas during each orbit.

The specific capabilities of this ELINT system are not presently known; however, they may be less proficient than other collection systems.

Since there have been more than 40 of these flights, most of them lasting about eight days each, the Soviets should have already collected a good data base on Free World radar-emitter characteristics. They also may have been able, over the years, to chart the development in emitters at individual sites.

A new type of ELINT satellite may have appeared recently. [redacted] [redacted] Cosmos 151 and Cosmos 158 (launched 24 March and 15 May, respectively) is indicative of reconnaissance; photorecce is not likely because the orbital altitudes of these vehicles (over 300 n. m.) are too high for best results. ELINT would seem to be the most likely mission. However, neither of these vehicles appears to be recoverable; this means that all data collected [redacted] [redacted] with a consequent loss of security.

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The design of a satellite especially for ELINT collection would probably result in more detailed collection.

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Conclusions:

- The Soviet ELINT program is extensive and diversified; it carries a high priority.
- Soviet state-of-the-art for intercept and analysis of radar signals is rated as slightly below US capabilities, but its minor deficiencies are compensated for by data obtained from other Soviet intelligence sources.
- The Soviets have already obtained a great deal of information on NORAD's sensors through intercepts made by ELINT equipment carried by satellites, surface vessels, and aircraft. Most, if not all, ECCM fixes of a radiating type are probably known to the Soviets.
- While it may not be possible to deny the Soviets information on the technical capabilities of NORAD equipment, it may be feasible and desirable to protect certain tactics and manners of employment.
- The Soviet ELINT effort has been an important factor in the notable progress which the USSR has made in reducing the West's once-impressive lead in electronics in general.

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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

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Second Probable Photorecce Satellite Launch Failure of 1967 Detected

An apparent Soviet attempt to launch a spacecraft from Tyuratam at about 0602Z, 21 July, failed. US sensors detected a launch, [redacted]

[redacted] but spacetracking radars did not detect any new Soviet spacecraft in orbit.

The craft launched was probably a photoreconnaissance satellite:

- A photorecce launch was due, to maintain the rate of two per month which has characterized the Soviet program for the past 18 months. Cosmos 168, the latest in the series, was launched 4 July and de-orbited 12 July.
- The SL-4 launch system (SS-6 and Venik upper stage) has been used in all launches of high-resolution photorecce satellites and, on four occasions, for launches of medium-resolution photorecce/ELINT satellites. It has, of course, figured in other types of space launches as well.

This is the second apparent failure of a Soviet photorecce satellite launch this year; the first occurred on 20 June. Abortive missions this close together in time are unusual. The over-all launch success rate for this program is over 90%. There were two failures last year, one in May and one in September.

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