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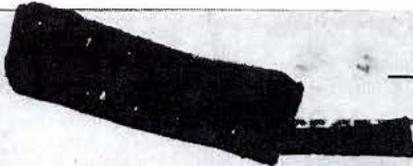
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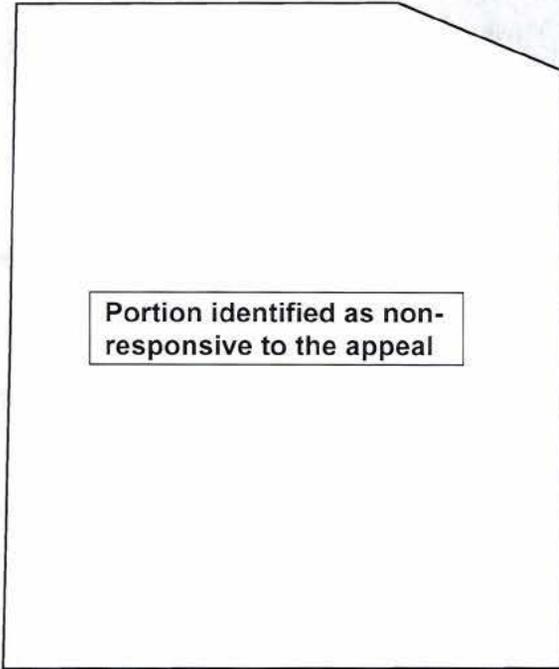
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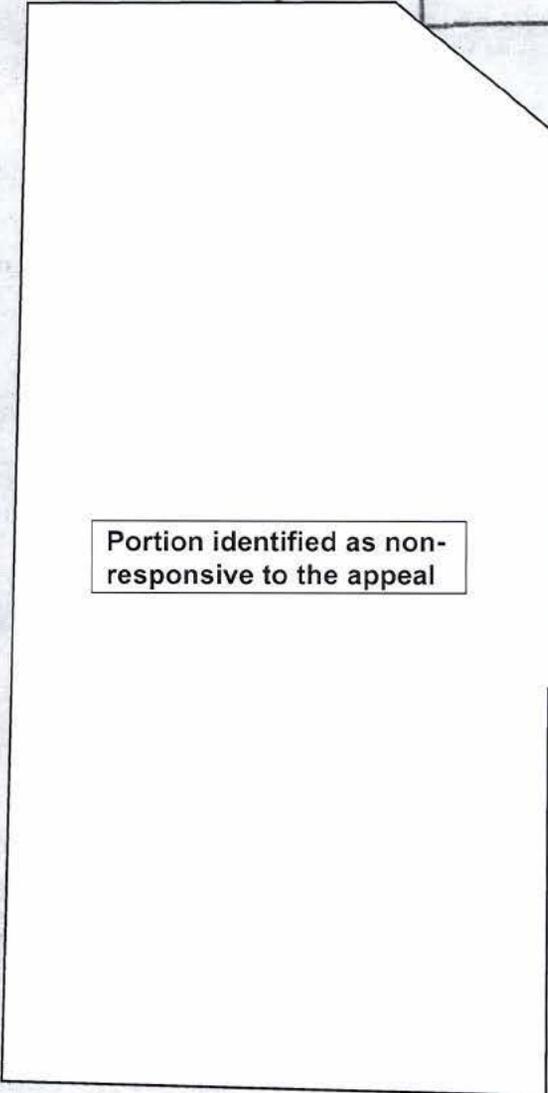
Issue No. 34/67, 25 August 1967

The WIR in Brief



Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

2
3
3
4
4
5
8
8
9



Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

18
18
19
20
21
22
22
23
24
25
26
27
28

Space

VENUS 4 MAY BE OVERDUE FOR INFLIGHT COURSE CORRECTION 10

Maneuver should have been made about 22 July.

REGCE COSMOS 172 DE-ORBITED ROUTINELY 10

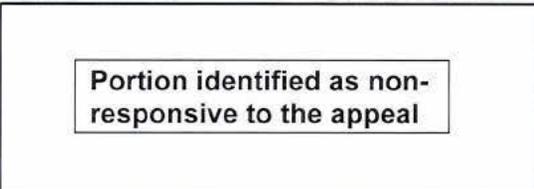
Almost 8 days after launch.

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal 10

FRENCH CLAIM THEY WILL BE PRESENT WHEN SOVIETS LAUNCH SATELLITE FOR THEM 12

Must furnish own pre-launch test gear.

SIGNIFICANT SPACE LAUNCHES MAY BE IN OFFING; SPACE SUPPORT SHIPS TAKE TO SEA 12

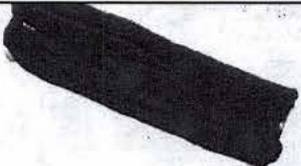


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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Venus 4 May be Overdue for Inflight Course Correction

Venus 4, Soviet probe of the planet Venus which was launched 12 June, appears not to have made yet the inflight course correction which was expected about 22 July. FTD has estimated that the probe will miss Venus by about 98,000 n. m. if a course correction is not made. Venus 4 will make its closest approach to the planet on or about 26 October 1967.

(DIA; NORAD)

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Recce Cosmos 172 De-Orbited Routinely

Cosmos 172, Soviet military reconnaissance satellite which was launched at about 0545Z, 9 August, was de-orbited on 17 August during the early part of Revolution 128, nearly eight days after launch. The spacecraft crossed the Equator at about 15 degrees W. at about 0406Z and is believed to have impacted in the USSR at about 0430Z. Most Soviet recce satellites launched in the past 32 months have been de-orbited after nearly 8 days of flight.

(NORAD)

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French Claim They Will Be Present When Soviets Launch Satellite for Them

French industrial representatives have told their US counterparts that the Soviets have agreed to allow French engineers to be present at the launch site when the Soviets launch the French satellite. The Soviets have insisted that the French supply their own test gear for the pre-launch checkout and that no Soviet equipment of this type will be made available to the French. The French-Soviet cooperative space launch is scheduled for 1972.

(CIA)

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Significant Space Launch(es) May Be in Offing; Space Support Ships Take to Sea

The fact that a number of SSESSs (Soviet space event support ships) are at sea suggest that the Soviets are preparing to launch one or more significant space events. The newest and most elaborate of them, the "Cosmonavt Vladimir Komarov", is heading for the "tropic zone of the western Atlantic," according to the Soviet newspaper Trud. It will be the first known SSESS to operate in this area. The mission of the SSESSs is to monitor transmissions from certain Soviet spacecraft during critical portions of their flights.

Western intelligence has been expecting one or more significant Soviet space events before the 7 November celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution. It is also possible that the Soviets intend to launch some important space event on or before 4 October, the 10th anniversary of the historic launch of Sputnik 1, which opened the space age. If the Soviets are planning manned flights -- and it is believed that they are -- the support ships could be expected to be deployed so that they could also monitor transmissions from unmanned precursor satellites which normally precede new types of Soviet manned spacecraft into space.

The possibility that circumlunar flights with Earth re-entry will be conducted should not be discounted.

The Komarov, which was named for the cosmonaut killed in the crash of Soyuz 1 on 24 April, is making its first "expeditionary" voyage, according to Trud. Bedecked with two 65-foot radomes, a 25-foot radome, and telemetry and other communications antennas, it is similar in size and configuration to the US's new space and missile-tracking ships which are to support the Apollo manned lunar program. The Komarov thus could be capable of monitoring spacecraft transmissions associated with



such complex manned operations as extracurricular vehicle activity and rendezvous and docking. It could, therefore, enlarge significantly the area over which the Soviets could monitor such operations; previously, the Soviets could monitor them only from the USSR or from missile-range instrumentation ships in the Pacific.

Perhaps of significance to the forthcoming space events was a Soviet announcement last June that nine ships (including the Komarov) had been assigned to the Soviet Academy of Sciences for "research in the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans and the Mediterranean Sea connected with observations of space objects." It may be noteworthy that:

- This was the first Soviet announcement admitting the use of ships to support the space program, a function which some of them had been executing for six years.
- The announcement that the fleet consisted of nine ships and that they would operate in three oceans plus the Mediterranean indicates an expansion of this type of activity: 1) the SSESS fleet normally has consisted of only four ships, and 2) their operations have been confined in the past to the south Atlantic and the Mediterranean.

(NORAD; DIA; CIA; Soviet press)

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