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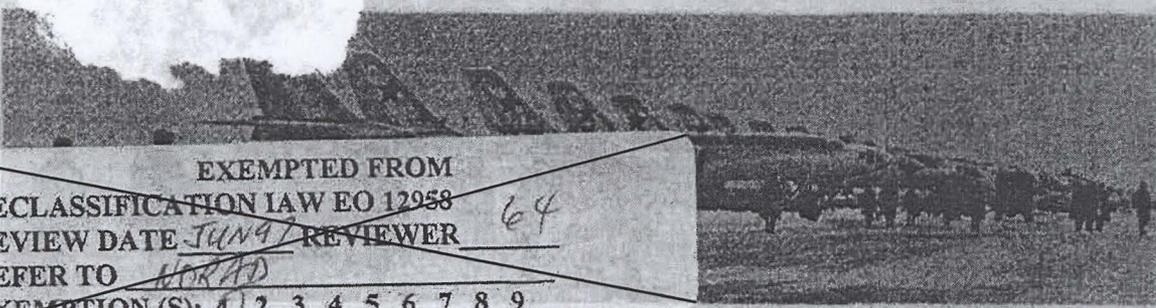
WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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The WIR in Brief

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Space

COSMOS 181 ANOTHER MILITARY RECCE SATELLITE

The 17th successful one of 1967. RECCE SATELLITE COSMOS 182 LAUNCHER EARLIER IN THE DAY THAN USUAL. May have been related to unusual missile launches.

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MAJOR SPACE EVENT STILL PENDING; MAY OCCUR LATE THIS MONTH

Ships still on station, apparently. UNIDENTIFIED SPACECRAFT LAUNCHED INTO VERY HIGH, NEARLY VERTICAL TRAJECTORY. First vertical launch to altitude of about 4,400 kilometers.

VENUS 4 APPARENTLY A SUCCESS; MORE LATER

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COVER: BADGER flight line (from Red Star) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, 37, and 40 of this issue are blank.

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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Cosmos 181 Another Military Recce Satellite

Cosmos 181, which was launched from the Plesetsk space and missile complex at about 1130Z, 11 October, carries a medium-resolution camera system and is an ELINT collector. Its orbit has an inclination of about 65.5 degrees to the Equator.

This event was the 20th Soviet recce satellite launch this year, the 17th successful one. It is the third consecutive one to have a medium-resolution photorecce mission.

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Recce Satellite Cosmos 182 Launched Earlier in the Day than Usual

Cosmos 182, a Soviet military reconnaissance satellite carrying a high-resolution camera system was launched from Tyuratam at about 0759Z, 16 October, into an orbit with an inclination of about 65 degrees. This launch time is about 3 hours earlier than is usual for a Soviet recce satellite launch at this time of year. Recce satellite Cosmos 181 was launched from Plesetsk only 5 days earlier and was still functioning properly on 16 October. This launch follows the launch from Plesetsk of recce satellite Cosmos 181 which was still in orbit and still functioning when Cosmos 182 was launched.

The circumstances surrounding the launches of Cosmos 182 and of Cosmos 177 (17 Sep) are similar in several respects to those surrounding the launch of Cosmos 168 (4 July) and an abortive recce satellite launch of 21 July:

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- All 4 were recce satellites.
- All were launched at unusually early hours in the day.
- All were launched from Tyuratam.
- The first satellite of each series (Cosmos 168, Cosmos 177) carried a medium-resolution camera systems.
- The second satellite of each series carried a high-resolution camera system.
- An unusual series of missile firings occurred between the first and second launch in each of the two postulated series:
 - 1) A salvo of several ICBMs was launched from several different ICBM complexes on 20 July -- the largest known Soviet ICBM salvo (p. 7, WIR 32/67).
 - 2) The Soviets launched a record number of surface-to-surface missiles during the week 29 September-6 October -- 16 missiles, 7 of which were ICBMs (p. 5 last week's WIR).

It had been speculated that the 4 July and 21 July launches may have been intended, respectively, as simulations of prestrike and poststrike photoreconnaissance for the salvo of 20 July. In like manner, it is speculated that Cosmos 177 and Cosmos 182 may have simulated prestrike and poststrike photorecce for at least some of the missile firings of the week of 29 September-6 October.

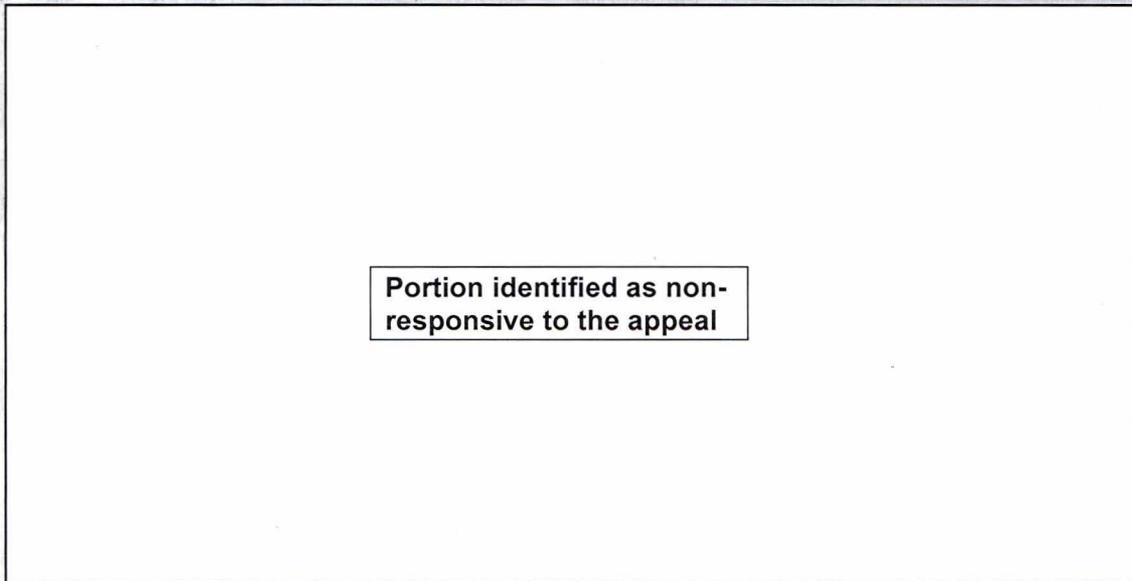
In any event, all 4 launches appear to have a special character and probably have little or nothing to do with the regular recce satellites which have been launched at the rate of about 2 per month in 1966 and 1967. If this is the case, the total number of recce satellite launches -- successes and failures -- may exceed slightly in 1967 the 23 launches (21 successes, 2 failures) of 1966. Cosmos 182 is the 21st such launch of 1967, with 2.5 months of the year remaining.

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Major Space Event Still Pending; May Occur Late this Month

The major Soviet space operation which was apparently intended to take place sometime in September is still pending and could come off during the week 22-28 October.

The event was presaged by the deployment in August of a number of SSESSs (Soviet space event support ships), including the new, highly instrumented Cosmonaut Komarov (p. 10, WIR 37/67, and pp. 12-13, WIR 24/67).

The nature of the event is not known but might be one of the following:

- A circumlunar flight by an unmanned craft which would return to the Earth and be recovered. This could represent logically the next step in the Soviets' march toward their goal of eventually landing a cosmonaut on the Moon.
- A landing on the Moon of an unmanned payload which would take aboard a sample of the lunar surface and return it to Earth, where it would be recovered. This mission, albeit more difficult and less likely than the circumlunar flight, is considered feasible. The SL-12 propulsion system (the heavy 2-stage SL-9 (Proton) system plus an optimized upper stage) would be adequate for the mission. Successful accomplishment of such a mission would indicate a much greater Soviet advance in the field of lunar exploration than has been anticipated.

(NORAD;CIA)

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Unidentified Spacecraft Launched Into Very High, Nearly Vertical Trajectory

The Soviets launched an unknown type of space probe into a very high, nearly vertical trajectory from Tyuratam at about 1212Z, 12 October. [redacted] confirmed the firing and permitted tentative identification of the launch vehicle as an SL-8. (The SL-8 is a 2-stage storable-liquid-propellant space-launch system which launched multiple-payload Cosmoses in 1965. The first stage is probably a modified SS-5/SKEAN IRBM with a sea-level thrust of 344,000 pounds; the second stage can be restarted in space.)

The Soviet news agency TASS confirmed the launch by stating that a probe had been launched to an altitude of 4,400 kilometers (2,375 n. m.) for the purpose of obtaining data on the characteristics of the ionosphere, the intensity of cosmic rays, and radiation doses for various regions of the Earth's radiation belts.

This is the first known Soviet probe launched to the announced altitude of 4,400 kilometers. Soviet vertical probes in the past have been launched to altitudes of up to about 300 n. m.

There were no significant astrophysical phenomena extant at the time, except for a low-intensity solar flare, which would have warranted the unusual vertical probe of 12 October.

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Venus 4 Apparently a Success; More Later

Venus 4, a probe which the Soviets launched on 12 June, softlanded on Venus on 18 October and has transmitted back to Earth information about the planet Venus and its atmosphere, according to the Soviet news agency TASS. The WIR will publish more information about this event as it becomes available.

(TASS; NORAD)

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