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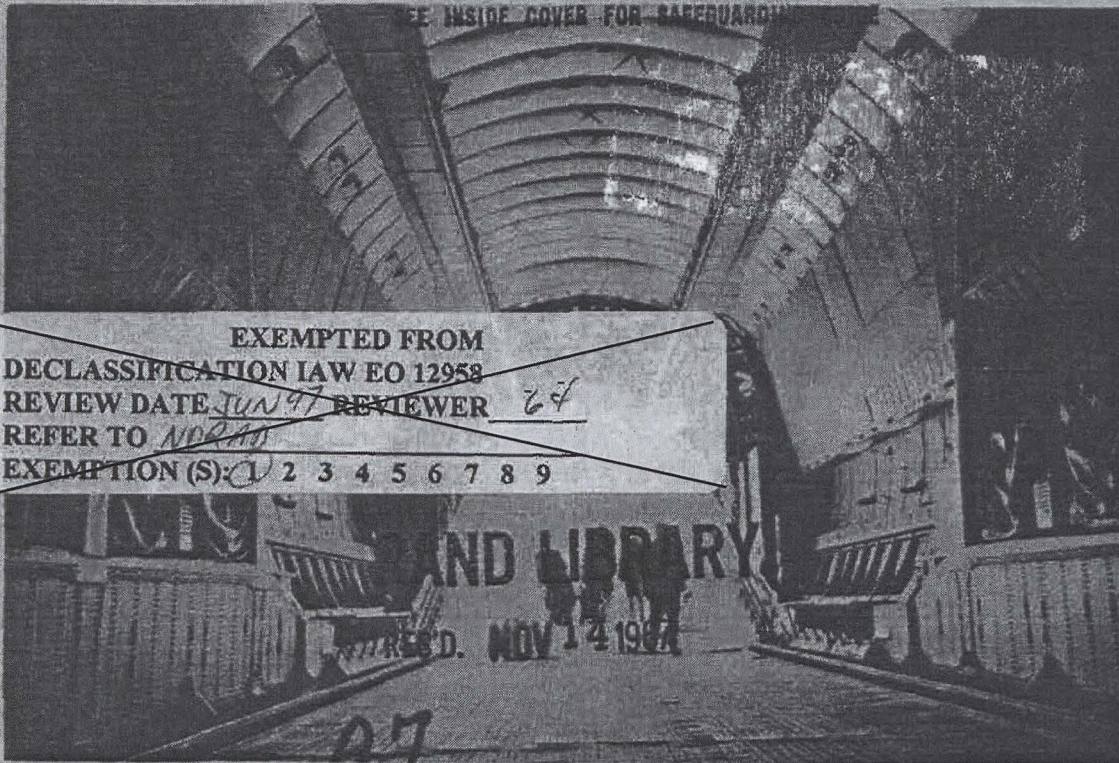
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NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

**W I R**

**WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (W)**  
**PRIVILEGED INFORMATION**



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# NORAD

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## The WIR in Brief

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### Space

COSMOS 190 A HIGH-RESOLUTION PHOTORECCE SATELLITE

The 22d launch of this type this year, 'SPACE CLOCK' REPORTED BY WEST GERMAN OBSERVATORY PROBABLY COSMOS 188 BEACON

Bochum announcements based on sparse data, 12 SPACECRAFT LAUNCHED BY SOVIETS IN OCTOBER, A RECORD FOR U.S.S.R.

6 launched in one week. COSMOS 188 DE-ORBITED; AUTOMATIC RENDEZVOUS, DOCKING TECHNIQUE A KEY TO CERTAIN SPACE EVENTS

Harbinger of complex missions in near-Earth space.

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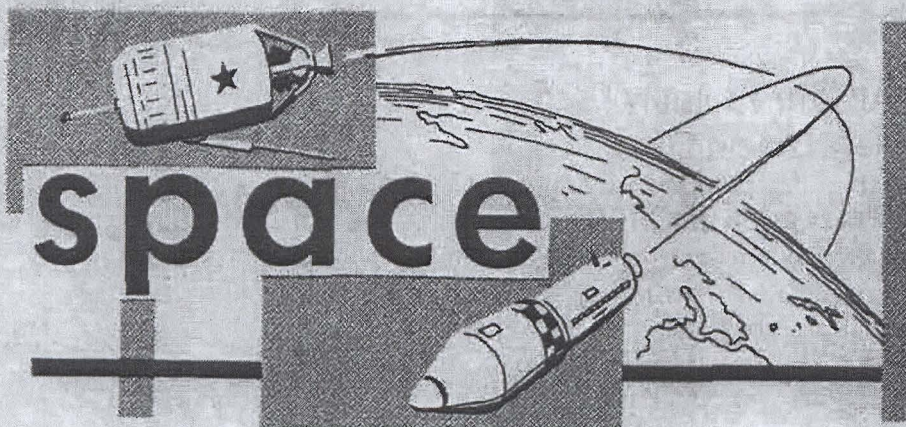
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significant  
intelligence  
on space  
developments  
and trends

### **Cosmos 190 a High-Resolution Photorecce Satellite**

Cosmos 190, which the Soviets launched from the Plesetsk space and missile complex at about 1120Z, 3 November, is a military reconnaissance satellite equipped with a high-resolution camera system. As with other high-resolution recce satellites, the data collected will be used to update information on targets for Soviet bombers and missiles. It will probably be de-orbited 11 November.

Cosmos 190 is the Soviets' 22d photorecce satellite launch this year; there was a total of 23 such launches in all of 1966.

### **'Space Clock' Reported by West German Observatory Probably Cosmos 188 Beacon**

The mysterious "space clock" mentioned in a press release from Bochum Observatory, West Germany, has been tentatively identified as a beacon aboard Cosmos 188, the unmanned Soyuz-type satellite which was launched from Tyuratam on 30 October and de-orbited on 2 November.

The release said that Bochum Observatory had received signals lasting 30 seconds at intervals of exactly 1.5 minutes from a new or recently launched Soviet satellite. This timing is consistent with one of the two HF beacons aboard Cosmos 188.

Bochum Observatory frequently issues bulletins about Soviet space events, but the raw data on which its information is based is very limited.

### **12 Spacecraft Launched by Soviets in October, a Record for USSR**

The Soviets executed 12 space launches in October, 33-1/3% more than the record set in March this year. All 12 launches appear to have been successful, although one payload (Cosmos 184) may not be operating completely satisfactorily.

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Six of the launches occurred during the 7-day period 24-30 October, another record.

The 12 launches for October included:

- 2 communications-relay satellites (usually launched 6 months apart)
- 2 orbital-bombardment test vehicles
- 2 military reconnaissance satellites
- 2 unmanned Soyuz-type vehicles which performed a rendezvous/docking operation
- 1 probable weather-reconnaissance satellite
- 1 possible R&D satellite
- 1 possible military satellite of unknown application
- 1 rocket launched vertically to an altitude of about 2,375n. m. , whose mission has not yet been determined.

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### Cosmos 188 De-orbited; Automatic Rendezvous, Docking Technique a Key to Certain Space Events

Cosmos 188, which was launched from Tyuratam on 30 October, was de-orbited on 2 November during the early part of Revolution 48. This was the craft which, with Cosmos 186, executed rendezvous and docking in orbit. Both these unmanned craft apparently were similar to Soyuz 1, in which Cosmonaut Komarov was killed in April this year. Cosmos 186 was de-orbited on 31 October, early on Revolution 64.

This rendezvous and docking is the more significant in that it was achieved automatically and before Cosmos 188 had completed its first revolution. This operation is comparable in importance with the launch of the first artificial Earth satellite or execution of the first manned orbital flight. The Soviets can be expected to apply this capability toward a number of advanced missions, such as:

- Stationing of long-lived military space platforms in orbit.
- Assembly of space stations in orbit.
- Assembly of launch platforms in orbit, in support of lunar and interplanetary operations.
- Logistics support of space stations -- reprovisioning, replacement of spacecrew, or repair of spacecraft systems.
- Rescue of crews from orbiting spacecraft.
- Inspection, by manned or unmanned spacecraft systems, of unknown objects in Earth orbit.

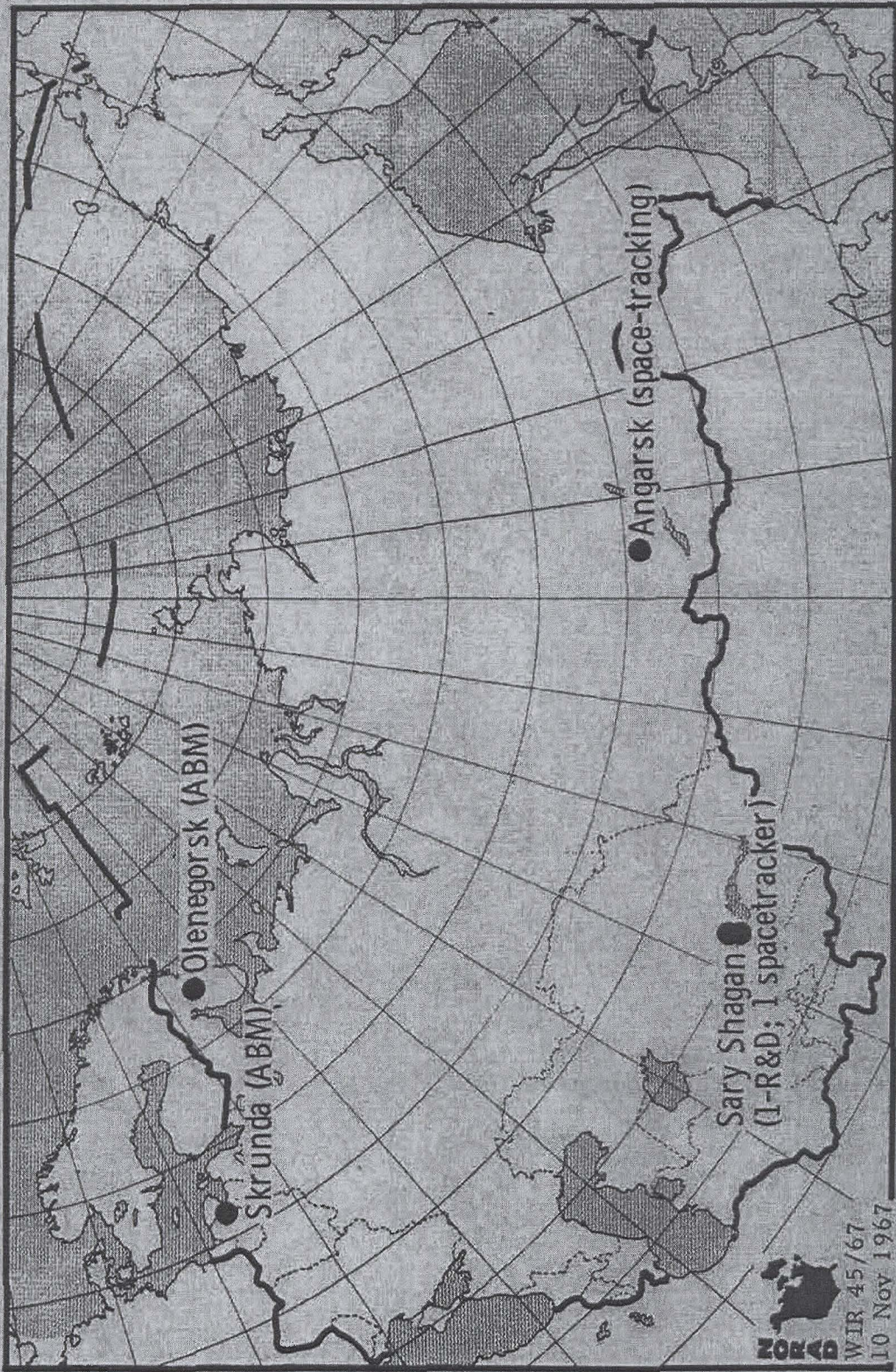
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