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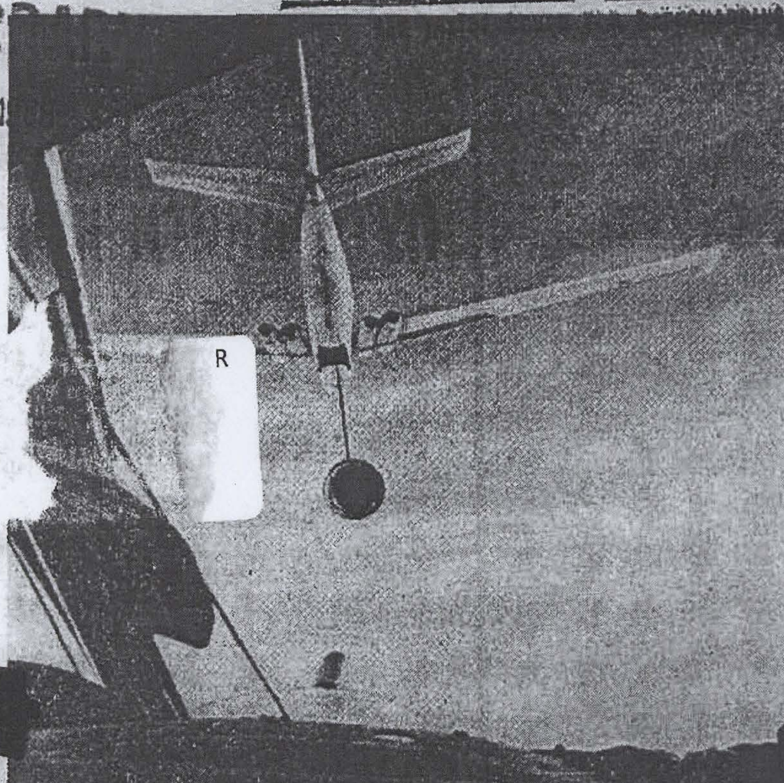
NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

WIR

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW

PRIVILEGED INFORMATION



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WIR 17/68
26 Apr 68

NORAD—AOC Field Printing Plant
Ent AFB, Colorado

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NORAD

SECRET

Weekly Intelligence Review

Issue No. 17/68 26 April 1968

The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Space

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

COVER: BISON TANKER (From Red Star) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

The tanker system includes 180 feet of hose with drogue at end which extends from bomb bay and is connected to the normal fuel system. Probe, at lower part of picture, is 8 feet long and 10 inches in diameter. BISON are playing an increasingly larger role as tankers. BISON tankers refuel both BISON bombers and BEARS. (SECRET)

NOTE: Pages 26, 28, 29, 32, 33, 36, and 37 of this issue are blank.

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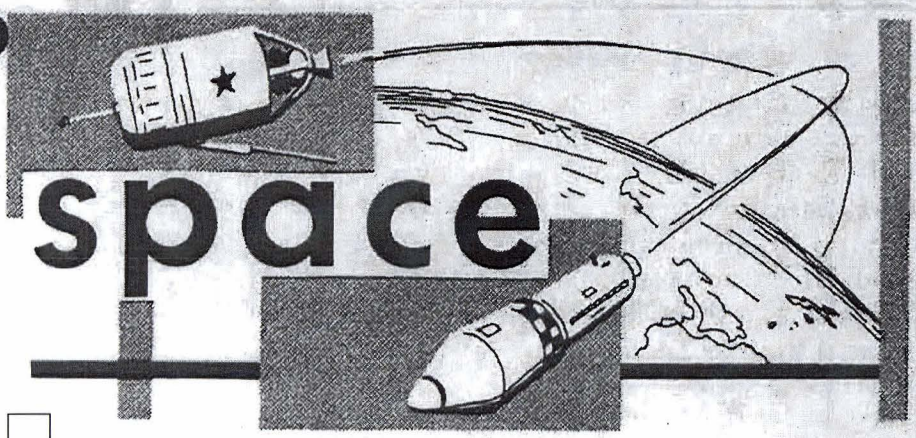

significant intelligence on space developments and trends

Soviets Launch Another Photorecce Satellite on 81-Degree Inclination

The Soviets launched Cosmos 214 at about 1030Z on 18 April from the Plesetsk Missile and Space Complex. The launch was detected by the 440L OHD and orbit was confirmed by [redacted] and the Clear, Alaska BMEWS which acquired the vehicle 18 minutes after launch.

Cosmos 214 was placed into orbit by the SL-4 launch system consisting of the SS-6 booster/sustainer and the Venik third stage. All of the Soviet recce satellites have been placed into orbit with the SL-4 launch system since last May.

The mission is assessed as a high resolution photo reconnaissance vehicle which will probably be de-orbited on 26 April after a nominal 8 day mission.

Orbital parameters of Cosmos 214 are as follows:

	SDC	TASS
Apogee (km)	400	403
Perigee (km)	196.3	211
Inclination (degrees)	81.28	81.4
Period (Min)	90.16	90.3

This is the second Soviet photo recce vehicle launched from Plesetsk on an 81-degree inclination which gives them virtual pole to pole coverage. The first was Cosmos 210 launched on 3 April 1968.
(NORAD)
~~(SECRET)~~

Cosmoses 212 and 213 De-Orbited

Cosmos 212, a Soyuz type vehicle, was deorbited and apparently impacted in the USSR at about 0815Z on 19 April during the early portion of its 80th revolution. Cosmos 212 had been launched on 14 April and was the active vehicle in the docking operation with Cosmos 213 on the 15th of April. After the nearly 4 hour link-up, Cosmos 212 apparently performed additional maneuvers.

Cosmos 213 was deorbited on 20 April, early on its 81st revolution. Cosmos 213 was launched 15 April and had served as the passive vehicle for the rendezvous and docking operation.

The successful missions of these two Soyuz type vehicles strengthens the possiblity that the Soviets will conduct a similar operation with cosmonauts aboard in the relatively near future. Cosmonaut Kamarov was killed in Soyuz 1 in April of 1967.

(NORAD)

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USSR Launches Geophysical Satellite from Kapustin Yar

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

The Soviets launched Cosmos 215 from Kapustin Yar at about 2232Z on 18 April.

The vehicle was placed into orbit with the SL-7 launch system (SS-4 booster with 2nd stage). These small scientific payloads are now being launched from both Kapustin Yar and Plesetsk.

Orbital parameters are as follows:

Apogee	453.8 kilometers
Perigee	251.7 kilometers
Inclination	48.4 degrees
Period	91.3 minutes

(NORAD)

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Soviets Launch a Photo Recce/ELINT Satellite

The Soviets launched Cosmos 216 from Tyuratam at 1030Z on 20 April. Mission is assessed as low resolution photo/electronic intelligence (ELINT) collection.

The SL-4 launch system consisting of the SS-6 booster/sustainer and

third stage Venik was used to place the vehicle into orbit.

Orbital parameters are as follows:

	SDC	TASS
Apogee (km)	280	277
Perigee (km)	198.4	199
Inclination (deg)	51.84	51.8
Period (Min)	89.11	89.1

This is the eighth Soviet photo recce satellite this year. Cosmos 214, still in orbit, was launched on 18 April. Five have used the 20-30 foot, low resolution cameras, while three have used the 5-8 foot, high resolution camera system.

Cosmos 216 will probably be deorbited on 28 April after a normal 8 day mission.

(NORAD)

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Soviets Launch Another Molniya Communications Satellite

At 0420Z on 21 April, the Soviets placed a Molniya Communications satellite into a parking orbit from which it was ejected into a highly elliptical orbit a little more than an hour after launch. Turkey radar tracked the vehicle after ejection from the parking orbit.

An SL-6 launch system, consisting of an SS-6 booster/sustainer, a Venik third stage and a fourth stage was used.

Molniyas 1/5, 1/6, and 1/7 are still active while Molniya 1/4 has not been heard from since January of 1968. Thus this latest Molniya may be a replacement for Molniya 1/4.

Like these other vehicles, the orbit is highly elleptical with a 40,000 kilometer apogee, an inclination of about 65 degrees, and a nominal 12 hour period.

Molniyas are part of the Soviet Orbita communications system.

According to the Soviets the "20 identical ground stations" of this system bring television to 20 million viewers of the Far North, Urals, Far East, Siberia, and Kazakhastan directly from Moscow. The system has been in operation for six months.

The Soviets also claim that the ground stations with their 39.5 foot aluminum dishes are relatively simple because of the unique 40 watt power used by the Molniyas. However, the Orbita Ground stations do use "cryogenic apparatus" for "clearing space signals" and the earth's "radio noise."

The Soviets transmit 40 hours of TV per week on the Orbita system and state that they are also developing a multi-channel telephone hook-up with the Far East. They will also be carrying out experimental color television and telephone links between Moscow and Paris (see WIRs 29/67 and 50/67 for further data on the Orbita system)
(NORAD; Izvestia)
(~~SECRET~~ NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION -- Releasable to US, UK & Canada)

Soviet Circumlunar Mission Fails

A Soviet spacecraft launched from Tyuratam at about 2301Z on 22 April on a probable circumlunar mission, failed to achieve orbit.

Preliminary analysis

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

The Soviets experienced a similar circumlunar failure on 7 February 1968 when a Tyuratam launched vehicle failed to achieve orbit.
(NORAD)
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