[redacted]

SECRET

NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

WIR

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

PRIVILEGED INFORMATION

K410.607-385

00808049

#18/18
3 May 1968
C.Z.

[redacted]

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

SPECIAL HANDLING REQUIRED
This document is releasable only to U.S. and Canadian Nationals

~~EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC REGRADING, DOD DIRECTIVE 5200.10 DOES NOT APPLY~~ Group 1

WIR 18/68
3 May 68

MAY 6 - 1968
Postal Registry No. 252375

[redacted]

SECRET

[redacted]

NORAD Weekly Intelligence Review

Issue No. 18/68 3 May 1968

The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Space

MORE ATTEMPTED CIRCUMLUNAR FLIGHTS WITH EARTH RECOVERY EXPECTED SOON
Last 2 attempts failed.

RECCE COSMOSES 214 AND 216 DE-ORBITED
On Revs 126 and 129, respectively.

COSMOS 217 ORBITED BUT BELIEVED TO HAVE FAILED IN MANEUVER MISSION
Appears to have decayed on Rev 13 without having accomplished any mission.

COSMOS 218 IS FIRST FOBS LAUNCH IN 6 MONTHS
Reason for long time lapse not known.

COSMOS 219 BELIEVED TO HAVE GEOPHYSICAL MISSION
Similar to Cosmos 202.

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

COVER: SSESS Komarov (from Aviation Week & Space Technology) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 28, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, and 43 of this issue are blank.

FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

[redacted]

significant intelligence on space developments and trends

More Attempted Circumlunar Flights with Earth Recovery Expected in Coming Months

The Soviets are expected to make in May or June their third attempt to send a payload around the Moon and back to Earth for recovery, utilizing the SL-12 launch system. The first two attempts, both of which failed, occurred on 22 November 1967 (p. 13, WIR 48/67) and 22 April 1968 (p. 12, WIR 17/68). The launch "windows" for the next attempt open 5-7 and 19-21 May:

In support of the expected operation, the Soviets have deployed a number of ships to the Indian Ocean (as they did prior to the 22 Nov attempt) to assist in the recovery of the spacecraft should it overshoot its programmed landing area in the USSR on a north-to-south pass. It has also deployed the highly instrumented SSESS Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov (photos on pages 32 and 33) to Cuba, to assist in monitoring and controlling the spacecraft when it is beyond line-of-sight of the deep-space command and control center in the Crimea (page 36).

The Soviets recently made a mild attempt to conceal the mission of the Komarov. A Moscow broadcast of 17 April concerning oceanological research mentioned recent departures of a number of Soviet ships to explore the world's oceans; among these, it said that "The Soviet expedition ship 'Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov' is now heading for Cuba." It is entirely possible that some oceanological work might be accomplished -- between space launches -- by personnel aboard the Komarov, but the abundance of radomes and communications gear aboard this ship clearly indicate that its primary mission is not oceanology or oceanography.
(NORAD)
~~(SECRET)~~

Recce Cosmoses 214 and 216 De-orbited

Soviet reconnaissance satellites Cosmos 214 and Cosmos 216 which were launched, respectively, on 18 and 20 April, were de-orbited during the early portions respectively, of Revolutions 126 and 129. Cosmos 214 impacted at about 0809Z, 26 April, in the vicinity of Orenberg (5150N-5500E); Cosmos 216 impacted at about 1010Z, 28 April, about 50 n.m. north of Ozinki (5100N-5000E).
(NORAD)
~~(SECRET)~~

Cosmos 217 Orbited But Believed to Have Failed in Maneuver Mission

Cosmos 217, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 1600Z, 24 April, is believed to have been the 4th in a series of tests of a maneuvering system which seems intended for use with military space systems. However, Cosmos 217, though it was successfully orbited, did not perform the maneuver believed to have been programmed for it.

Previous members of this series included Cosmoses 185, 198, and 209. These were launched, respectively, on 27 Oct 67, 27 Dec 67, and 22 Mar 68. All 4 members of this series were launched by the SL-11B propulsion system, which consists of the 2-stage SS-9 ICBM (the Soviets' largest truly military booster) and a restartable 3d stage. The SS-9 in each case injected the 3d stage into a suborbital trajectory, though it is believed capable of placing the 3d stage into orbit. The upper stage, after separation, continued upward ballistically for a brief period and then was ignited, injecting itself into a low near-Earth orbit. It was then shut down.

In the cases of Cosmoses 185, 198, and 209, the 3d stage engine was restarted some 1-3 days later, reinjecting the payload into a higher orbit.

But Cosmos 217 apparently never reached the higher orbit. It was lost to Western tracking sensors after Revolution 13, an indication that it had re-entered the Earth's atmosphere, probably because of a malfunction in the restartable 3d stage.

Cosmos 217, aside from its apparently premature demise, was also unlike its predecessors in the following respects:

- Its orbital inclination was 62 degrees, that of its predecessors was 64-65 degrees.
- Its initial orbit was appreciably lower:

	Cosmos 185	Cosmos 198	Cosmos 209	Cosmos 217
Apogee	480 km	269 km	260 km	185 km
Perigee	282 km	265 km	237 km	146 km

TASS reported substantially higher values for Cosmos 217 an apogee of 520 km, a perigee of 396 km. Perhaps these were the parameters of the orbit into which the Soviets intended to reinject this spacecraft after first placing it in lower near-Earth orbit.

No mission payloads have been noted with any of these vehicles. They are believed to be prototypes of a propulsion stage which appears to have both small and unusually large attitude-control thrusters. The primary engine of this stage apparently produces relatively small amounts of thrust but is capable of burning over long periods. The attitude-control system seems capable of handling a large payload or of rapidly re-orienting a smaller payload.

The SS-11B might be used in connection with orbital weaponry; a military communications system; interception, inspection, and disablement or neutralization of foreign satellites; or a new recce satellite. (The SS-11A propulsion system is used to launch the Soviet FOBS; see next article.) (DIA; NORAD)

~~(SECRET)~~

Cosmos 218 is First FOBS Launch in 6 Months

Cosmos 218, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 0045Z, 25 April, was a FOBS (fractional orbit bombardment system) vehicle. It was de-orbited about 93 minutes after launch, impacting in the USSR at about 49N-56E.

This is the first FOBS launch since 28 October 1967 and the Soviets' 8th consecutive FOBS success since 17 July 67. (See page 37.)

Preliminary information indicates that this launch was very similar to the 28 October 1967 firing. The reason for a six-month lapse between similar shots is not known at this time.

(NORAD)

~~(SECRET)~~

Cosmos 219 Believed to Have Geophysical Mission

Cosmos 219, which the Soviets launched from Kapustin Yar at about 0448Z, 26 April, is believed to have a geophysical mission similar to that of Cosmos 202. Its orbital inclination of 48.36 degrees is normal for research satellites launched from Kapustin Yar. Its other orbital parameters have been reported as follows by NORAD Space Defense Center:

Period	104.76 minutes
Apogee	1751.3 Km (942 n.m.)
Perigee	214 km (110 n.m.)

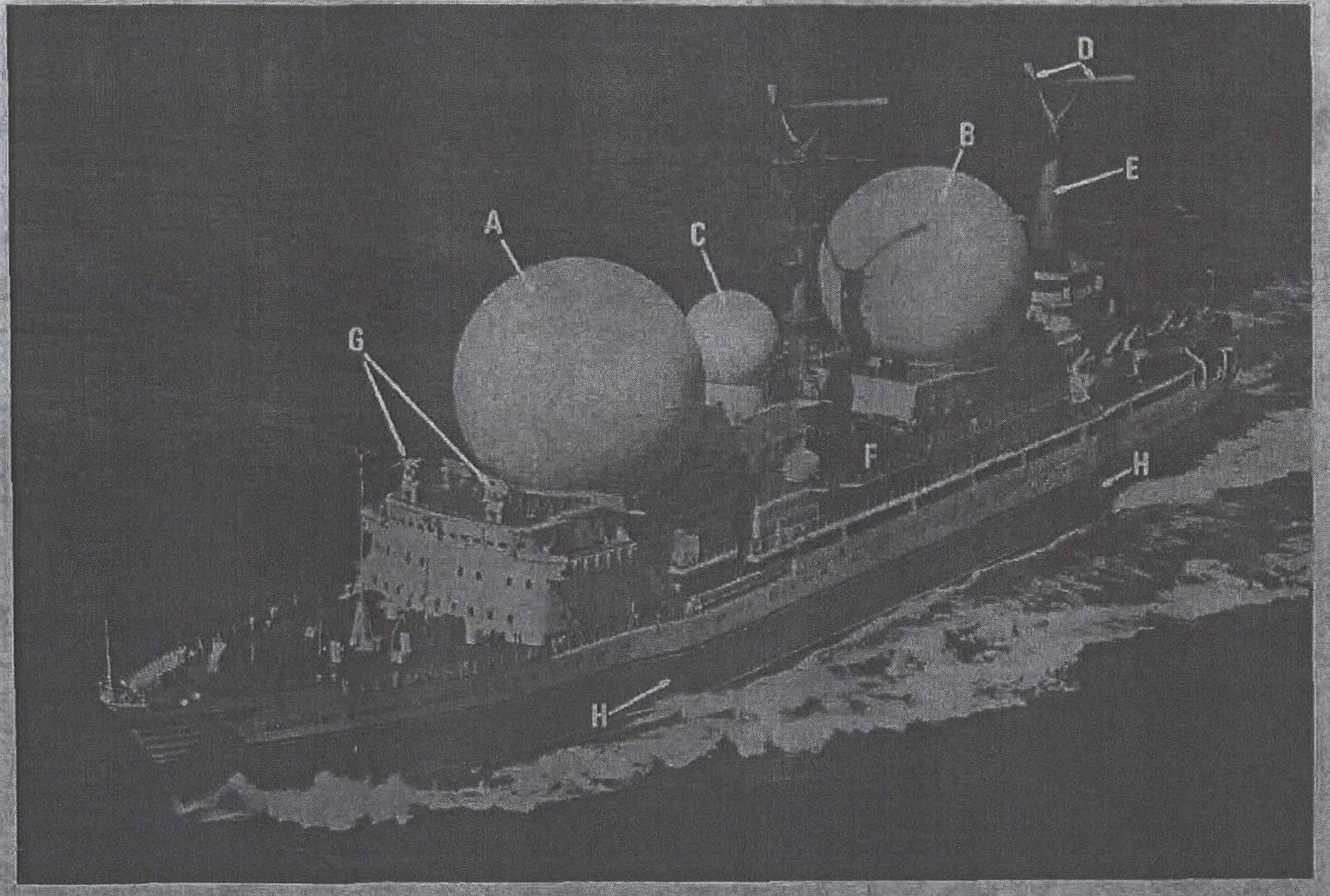
It was orbited by the SL-7 propulsion system, which to date has been used with all Kapustin Yar space launches of this type; however,

(NORAD)
~~(SECRET)~~

SSESS Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov
(from Aviation Week & Space Technology)

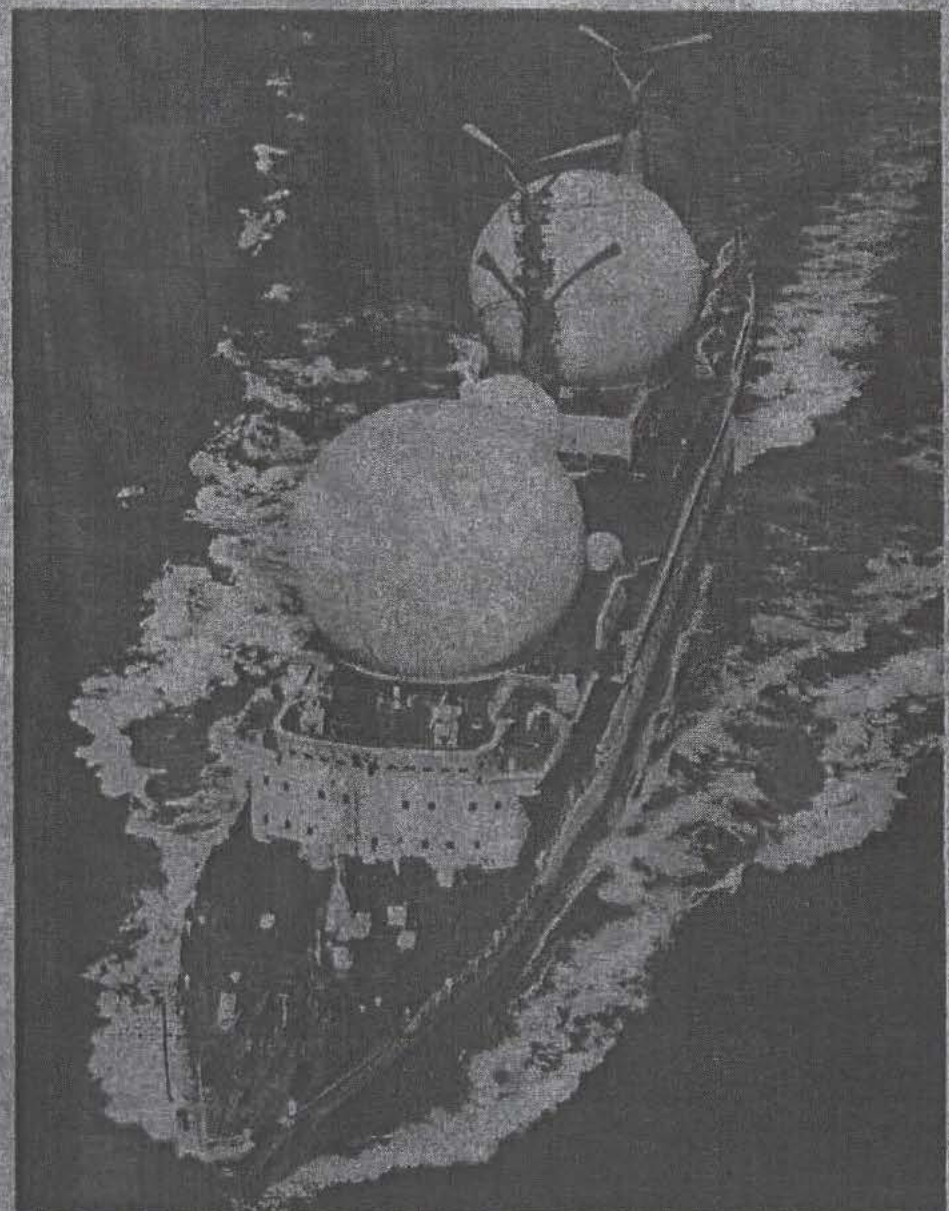
OFFICIAL
USE ONLY

NORAD
WIR 18/68
3 May 68



SECRET

SSESS (Soviet Space
Event Support Ship)
Kosmonavt Vladimir Komarov
(from Aviation Week &
Space Technology)



SECRET

SECRET

NORAD
WIR 18/68
3 May 68

OFFICIAL USE ONLY

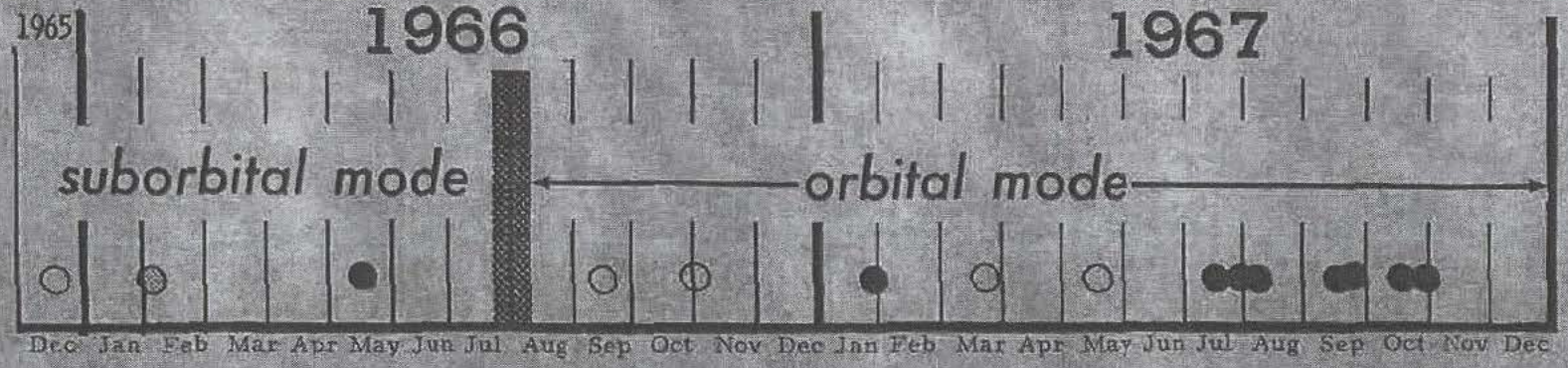
Antenna Which Soviets Use to Communicate with Deep Space Probes (from "Soviet Life")

SECRET

FOBS Launches, 1965-1967
(Latest launch occurred 25 Apr.)

NORAD
WIR 18/68
3 May 68

~~SECRET~~



● Apparent success
◎ Undetermined
○ Known failure

Orbital-mode OB-1s were launched into orbits with Equatorial inclinations of about 49 degrees.

The OB-1 consists of the 2-stage SS-9 (a large ICBM) and a 3d stage which to date has been used only for re-entry.

All OB-1s were launched from the Tyuratam rangehead.

Suborbital tests were to impact on the Kamchatka Peninsula. Orbital tests were to impact near the Kapustin Yar rangehead after completing one orbit.

~~SECRET~~

~~SECRET~~