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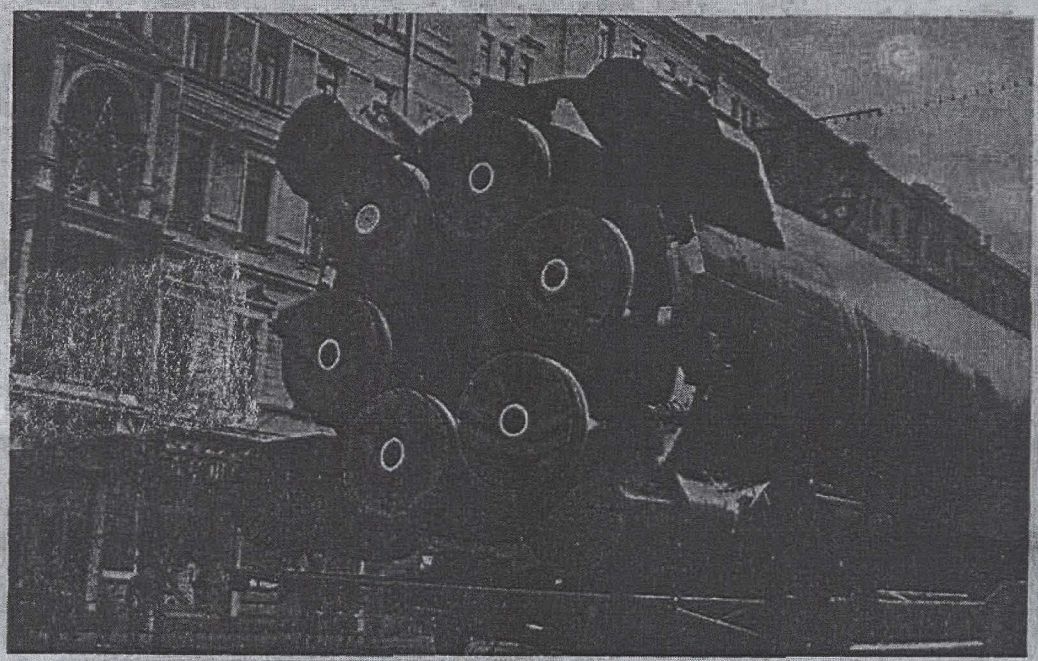
NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND

WIR

WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)



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NORAD Weekly Intelligence Review

Issue No. 26/68, 28 June 1968

RETURN TO HQ USAFORC MAXWELL AFB AL 36112-66

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The WIR in Brief

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

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Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Space

COSMOS 228 IS SOVIETS' 4th RECCE SATELLITE LAUNCH IN 21 DAYS; MAY ALSO CARRY RESEARCH PAYLOAD (S) 7

Unprecedented frequency of recsat launches.

MILITARY OR CLASSIFIED MISSION PROBABLE FOR NEWLY IDENTIFIED SUBSERIES OF COSMOS SATELLITES (S) 7

Soviets mum on results of their "research."

COVER: SCARP ICBM in Moscow parade, 7 Nov 67 (from Aviation Week & Space Technology)(OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 26, 27, 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, and 42 of this issue are blank.

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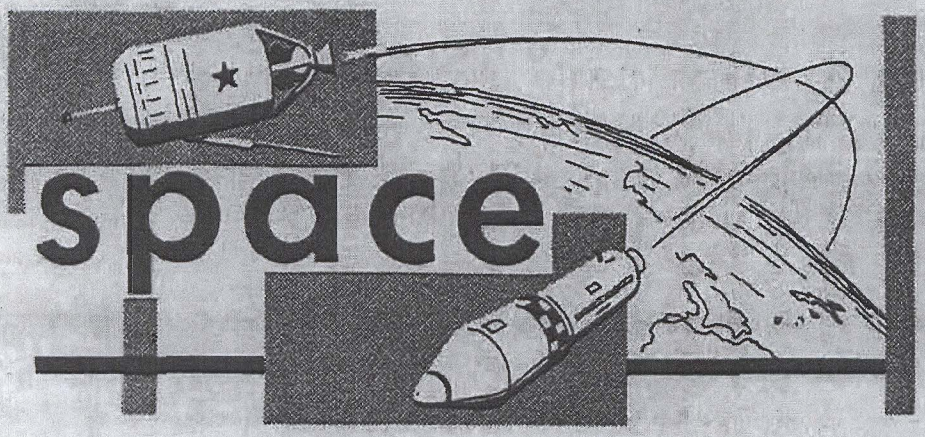

significant intelligence on space developments and trends

Cosmos 228 is Soviets' 4th Recce Satellite Launch in 21 Days; May Also Carry Research Payload ~~(S)~~

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

Cosmos 228, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 1200Z, 21 June, is a military recsat (reconnaissance satellite). It carries a low-resolution camera system and ELINT-collection equipment, and, possibly, a piggyback scientific payload. The last possibility is suggested by the fact that, in addition to the transmissions usual for a low-resolution recsat,

Launch of this satellite came only 3 days after launch of Cosmos 227, a recsat which carried a high-resolution camera system. A nearly similar launch sequence occurred earlier this month when recsats Cosmos 223 and Cosmos 224 were launched, respectively, on 1 June and 4 June. The main difference in these two pairs of launches was a reversal of the launch sequence in the use of high-resolution and low-resolution camera systems. It may be noteworthy, too, that in both pairs of launches the high-resolution-camera satellite was launched very early in the day (0645Z for Cosmos 224, 0615 for Cosmos 227).

The launch of 4 of these recsats within 21 days is unprecedented. (NORAD)

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Military or Classified Mission Probable for Newly Identified Subseries of Cosmos Satellites ~~(S)~~

Western intelligence has long recognized (WIR 38/64) that many of the Cosmos satellites announced by the Soviets as scientific-research craft are in reality performing military missions (photoreconnaissance, ELINT collection, weapon-systems testing, navigation aids) or other classified missions, or are mission failures. On the other hand, the West has also been conceding that most or all of the small nonrecoverable Cosmoses launched from Kapustin Yar and Plesetsk by the SL-7 propulsion system

are actually undertaking space research or testing equipment to be used in future spacecraft.

It now appears that a particular group of these small (300-500 pound) Cosmos satelites are related to a space program which is military or is classified for other reasons. The spacecraft believed to be members of this series are listed, together with pertinent launch data and orbital data, on page 36. The intelligence community has been referring to these craft as "Mission Group B Cosmos Satellites."

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

These craft are believed to belong to a distinct series because of mutual similarities in orbital parameters and [redacted] and because these characteristics are not common to the other Cosmoses. The mission of this series of spacecraft is believed to be military, or at least classified, since Soviet scientific literature has been silent on all or any of the results achieved by members of this series during the 4-year existence of the program.

Only 3 major changes have been noted in the program:

- The first launches (1964-1966) were conducted at Kapustin Yar (KY); all later launches have occurred at the Plesetsk space and missile complex (about 120 n.m. south of Arkhangel). This could mean that the KY launches were developmental, the Plesetsk launches operational. During roughly the same time period, for example, the Soviets moved their meteorological satellite (metsat) program from Tyuratam to Plesetsk; all fully operational Soviet metsats have been launched from Plesetsk.
- Simultaneous with the change in launch sites, the orbital inclinations of the Mission Group B Cosmoses have been changed. The KY-launched members of the series had inclinations of 48.4-49 degrees, as has been the case for all KY satellites. The orbital inclinations of the Plesetsk-launched members of this series have alternated between 71 degrees and 81.9 degrees. The reason for this change is not known.
- Also simultaneous with the change in launch sites, there has been a regular alternation in the orbital altitude of these satellites. Those launched into orbits with inclinations of 81.9 degrees have had apogees nearly 3 times as high as the other mission group B Cosmoses. Again, the reason for this change is not known.

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The mission of this distinct series of satellites has not been identified, since little is known about them. The craft are not stabilized, but [redacted] This data, plus data on the craft's position at the same moment (available from tracking), would be needed to correlate and identify the data collected by the primary-mission sensors. [redacted]

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Mission Group B Cosmos Satellites (U)

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(CIA)

	Launch Date	Launch Time (GMT)	Launch Site	Apogee/Perigee (kilometers)	Inclination (degrees)	Period (min)	Active Lifetime (months)
Cosmos 36	30 Jul 64	0330	KY*	503/259	49	91.9	About 5
Cosmos 76	23 Jul 65	0435	KY	502/261	48.8	92.2	About 3
Cosmos 101	21 Dec 65	0620	KY	550/260	49	92.4	About 4
Cosmos 116	26 Apr 66	1005	KY	478/294	48.4	92.0	About 7
Cosmos 123	8 Jul 66	0535	KY	529/263	48.8	92.2	About 5
Cosmos 152	25 Mar 67	0700	PL#	512/283	71	92.2	About 3
Cosmos 165	12 Jun 67	1806	PL	1542/211	81.9	102.1	About 1 1/2
Cosmos 173	24 Aug 67	0500	PL	528/280	71	92.3	About 3
Cosmos 176	12 Sep 67	1657	PL	1581/206	81.9	102.5	About 4 1/2
Cosmos 191	21 Nov 67	1428	PL	518/281	71	92.2	3
Cosmos 211	9 Apr 68	1127	PL	1563/207	81.9	102	
Cosmos 222	30 May 68	2030	PL		71	92.3	

*Kapustin Yar Missile Test Range

#Plesetsk Space and Missile Complex

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