

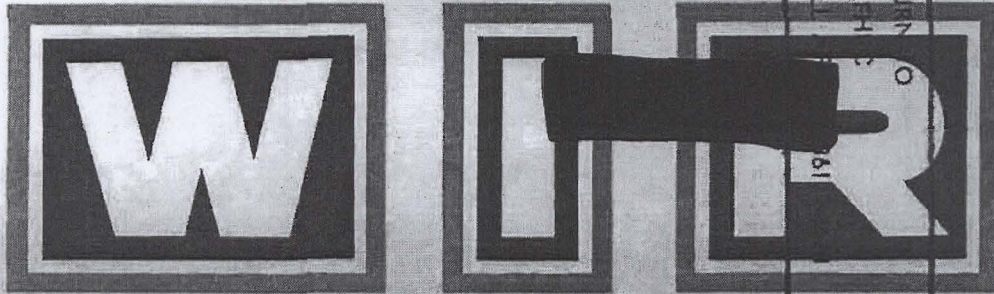
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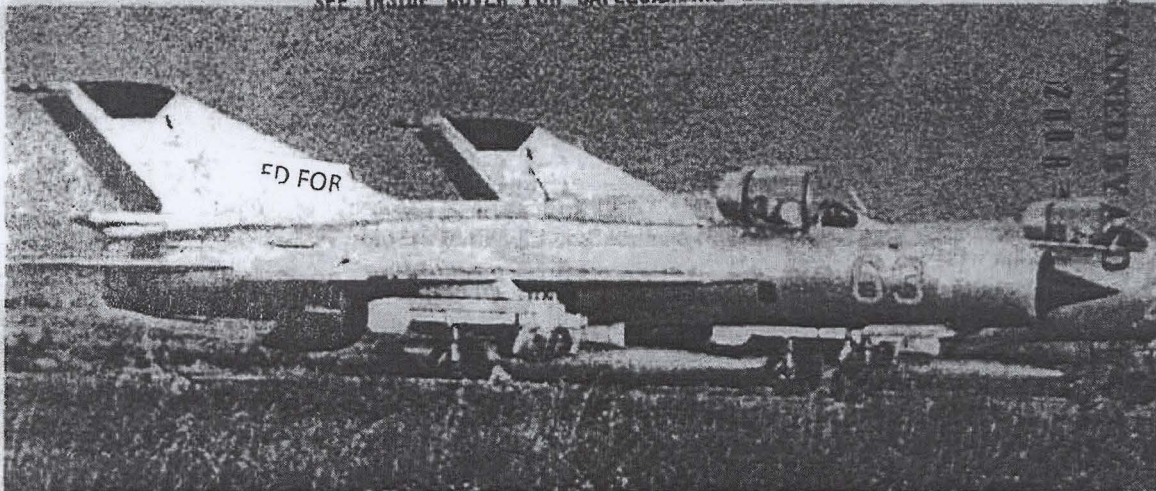
NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND



WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)

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**Weekly
Intelligence
Review**

Issue No. 31/68 2 August 1968

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The WIR in Brief

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Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

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Space

RECCE COSMOS 232 DE-ORBITED ROUTINELY ON REV 124 ~~187~~

After nearly 8 days in orbit, POSSIBLE CIRCUMLUNAR FLIGHT ATTEMPT POSTPONED; NEXT OPPORTUNITY COMES

9-11 AUGUST ~~187~~
Support ship takes up position off Cuba before July launch window closed, but no launch detected.

COSMOS 234 IS SOVIETS' 16th RECSAT LAUNCH THIS YEAR ~~187~~

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Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

COVER: FISHBED Fs (from Aviation Week & Space Technology (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)
NOTE: Pages 26, 28, 29, 32, and 33 of this issue are blank.

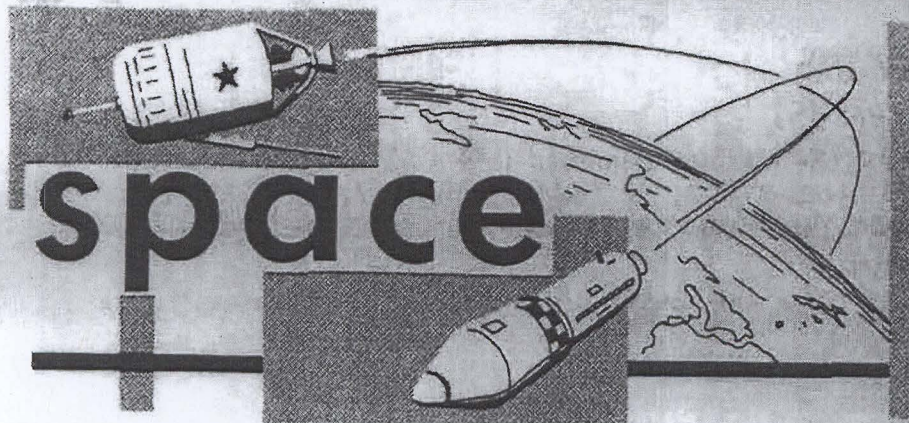
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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Recce Cosmos 232 De-orbited Routinely on Rev 124 ~~(S)~~

The payload of Cosmos 232, the high-resolution photoreconnaissance satellite which the Soviets launched from Plesetsk on 16 July, was de-orbited during the early portion of Revolution 124. It impacted in the vicinity of coordinates 5115N-7240E at about 0654Z, 24 July, nearly 8 days after launch.

(NORAD)

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Possible Circumlunar Flight Attempt Postponed; Next Opportunity is 9-11 Aug ~~(S)~~

The Soviets may have intended to launch a spacecraft around the Moon some time between 19 and 24 July, when Earth-Moon geometry would have been favorable for such an event, and recover it on Earth. The SSESS (Soviet space event support ship) Komarov, which was stationed near Havana, Cuba, in support of two previous attempts (22 Nov 67, 22 Apr 68), arrived off Havana again on 21 July 1968. No launch attempt has been detected, however. The Soviets may now be planning a launch when the "window" next opens, that is, 9-11 August.

The Komarov's role, it is believed, is to maintain line-of-sight type communications between the spacecraft and the USSR (via Molniya communications-relay satellite) when the craft is beyond line-of-sight of deep-space command and control centers in the USSR. As many as 5 operating Molniya satellites may be available at this time to take part in the operation. The newest Molniya was launched 5 July.

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Cosmos 234 is Soviets' 16th Recsat Launch This Year ~~(S)~~

Cosmos 234, which the Soviets launched into a 52-degree inclination orbit from Tyuratam at about 0700Z, 30 July, is the Soviets' 16th reconnaissance satellite launch this year. The spacecraft is carrying a high-resolution camera system.

The launch time is relatively early in the day for a Tyuratam recsat launch at this time of year.

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