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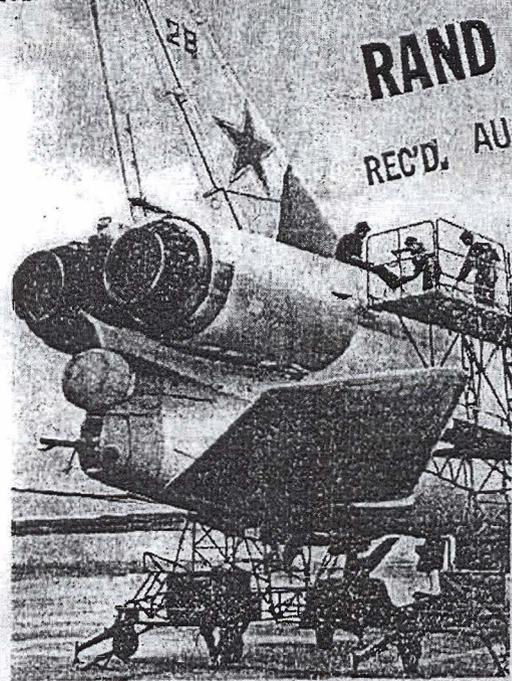
**NORTH AMERICAN AIR DEFENSE COMMAND**

**W I R**

**WEEKLY INTELLIGENCE REVIEW (U)**

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# NORAD

## Weekly Intelligence Review

Issue No. 32/68 9 August 1968

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### The WIR in Brief

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SOVIET MISSILE/ROCKET FIRINGS, & SPACE LAUNCHES IN JULY ~~1968~~

About average for this time of year.

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#### Space

13

DE-ORBITS OF SOVIET RECSATS WILL NOT BE REPORTED IN WIR UNLESS UNUSUAL ~~(S)~~

Usually de-orbited after 8 days.

RECSAT COSMOS 234 DE-ORBITED EARLY, POSSIBLY FOR SOME SPECIAL SOVIET NEED ~~(S)~~

Bought down 2 days ahead of time.

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#### Technical Intelligence Notes

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WEATHER-ROCKET LAUNCH SITE NAMED FOR FIRST TIME; OLDER SOVIET DATA UNUSABLE FOR THIS LACK ~~(S)~~

Data on Volgograd site is suspect.

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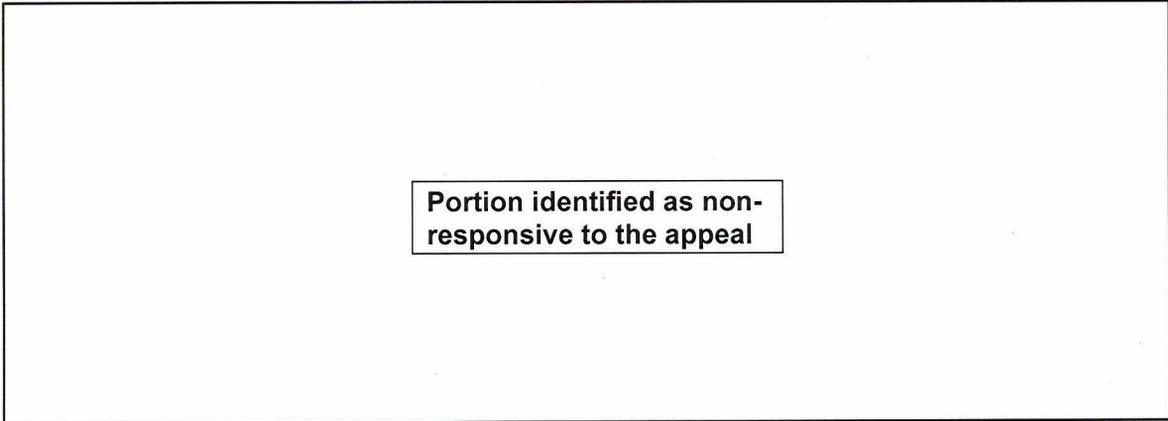
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NOTE: Pages 30, 31, 34, 35, 38, 39, 42, and 43 of this issue are blank.

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### 31 Soviet Missile/Rocket Firings, 6 Space Launches in July (S)

The level of Soviet missile, rocket, and space-launch attempts during July 1968 was about average for this time of year:

	<u>July</u> <u>1968</u>	<u>Preceding</u> <u>mo. (Jun68)</u>	<u>A year</u> <u>ago (Jul67)</u>
Missile launches	25	23	24
Vertical rocket launches	6	7	5
Space launches	<u>5</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>4</u>
	37	38	33

A list of the July 1968 firings is shown on page 36. Most of the missile firings during the month involved troop training.

Unusual features of the month's activity:

- An unidentified missile was launched on 2 July. Previous launches of this vehicle occurred 12 February and 18 June. Preliminary analysis indicates that this is a new ICBM which, in payload/range capabilities, lies somewhere between the small SS-11 ICBM and the average-sized SS-7 ICBM. The first stage has been operating at less than full capacity, the second stage near maximum capacity -- normal procedure for the first 6-10 test firings of a new vehicle.
- Five of the six SS-11 ICBMs launched during the month were fired to the unusually short range of 600 n. m. It is not clear yet whether this is operational testing of this ICBM for alternate use against MRBM targets or testing of payload variants or penetration aids.
- An SS-8 ICBM was fired from the Tyumen operational ICBM complex for the second consecutive month.





The number of rockets launched vertically (about 100 n. m. or less) has been high this year, possibly in studies of solar-flare activity which now is relatively high.

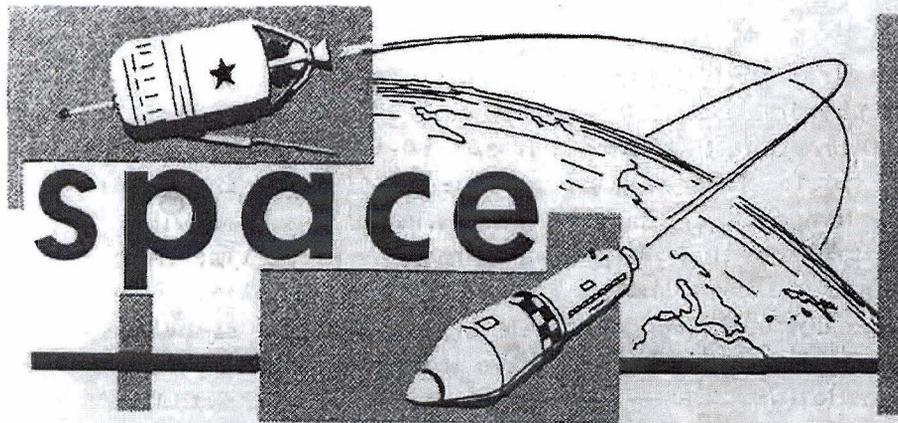
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significant  
intelligence  
on space  
developments  
and trends

### De-orbits of Soviet Recsats Will Not Be Reported in WIR Unless Unusual ~~(S)~~

The WIR will not report future de-orbits of Soviet reconnaissance satellites unless some unusual circumstance is noted. Most of these spacecraft are de-orbited nearly 8 days after launch.

Launches of Soviet recsats, however, will still be reported. Such items will be brief, as they have been in the recent past for routine launches, but anything new or unusual about these events will be mentioned.

(NORAD)  
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### Recsat Cosmos 234 De-orbited Early, Possibly for Some Special Soviet Need ~~(S)~~

Cosmos 234, a military reconnaissance satellite, which the Soviets launched from Tyuratam at about 0700Z, 30 July, was de-orbited on 5 August, after 6 days in space -- 2 days earlier than the normal 8-day flight time. The vehicle is believed to have impacted about 45 n. m. south-east of Kuybyshev at about 0758Z, 5 July, during the early part of Revolution 97.

It is believed that early recovery was dictated by some special Soviet intelligence requirement, not by any malfunction. There was no indication of any abnormality that would have induced the Soviets to de-orbit Cosmos 234 ahead of time.

Two other operational Soviet recsats have been de-orbited early:

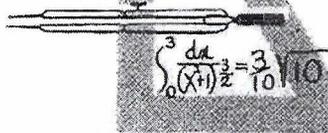
Cosmos 129 -- launched from Plesetsk 14 Oct 66, de-orbited 21 Oct, and  
Cosmos 164 -- launched from Plesetsk 08 Jun 67, de-orbited 14 Jun.

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# technical intelligence NOTES



items of interest  
on technical developments  
around the world

## Weather-Rocket Launch Site Named for First Time; Older Soviet Data Unusable for This Lack ~~(S)~~

A Soviet paper presented at the Tokyo COSPAR meeting in May gave an analysis of atmospheric properties up to an altitude of 80 kilometers (45 n. m. ), based on data collected by the Soviets at:

Kheys Island, Franz Josef Land, USSR (80.5N/58E)  
Volgograd, USSR (48.5N-44E)

and on US data from rockets launched from McMurdo in Antarctica.

This is the first time that the Soviets have identified a meteorological-rocket launch site within the USSR. Heretofore they have spoken only of mid-latitudes without specifying locations, thereby making their weather data from rockets unusable to and unverifiable by foreign scientists.

The information on the Volgograd launch site is suspect: the coordinates given would place it within the city's metropolitan area. Though meteorological rockets do not require complex launch facilities, they normally are not launched in urban areas, to avoid the possibility of rocket parts falling in populated areas. The Volgograd launch site more likely is located at the nearby Kapustin Yar Missile Test Center.

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Launch Date & Time (Z)	Vehicle	Rangehead
02 Jul, 0432	SS-7 ICBM	Tyuratam
02 Jul, 1100	SS-11S* ICBM	Tyuratam
02 Jul, 1801	Unidentified missile	Plesetsk
03 Jul, 0620	SS-9 ICBM	Tyuratam
03 Jul, 0921	SS-5 IRBM	Kapustin Yar
04 Jul, 0733	SS-12 SRBM	Kapustin Yar
04 Jul, 2000	SS-4 MRBM	Kapustin Yar
05 Jul, 0701	Cosmos 230 (SL-7)	Kapustin Yar
05 Jul, 1527	9th Molniya 1 (SL-6)	Tyuratam
06 Jul, 1040	SS-11 ICBM	Tyuratam
06 Jul, 2200	KY-6 ICBM (R&D)	Plesetsk
09 Jul, 1220	SS-11S ICBM	Tyuratam
10 Jul, 0817	SS-4 IRBM	Kapustin Yar
10 Jul, 1225	SS-11S ICBM	Tyuratam
10 Jul, 1950	Cosmos 231 (SL-4)	Tyuratam
10 Jul, 1958	SS-8 ICBM	Tyumen
13 Jul, 0610	SS-11S ICBM	Tyuratam
16 Jul, 0645	SS-4 MRBM	Kapustin Yar
16 Jul, 1310	Cosmos 232 (SL-4)	Plesetsk
16 Jul, 1742	Vertical firing	Kapustin Yar
16 Jul, 2036	SS-9 ICBM	Tyuratam
17 Jul, 0545	SS-11S ICBM	Tyuratam
17 Jul, 1856	SS-4 MRBM	Kapustin Yar
18 Jul, 2000	Cosmos 233 (SL-7)	Plesetsk
19 Jul, 0736	SS-5 IRBM	Kapustin Yar
19 Jul, 1739	Vertical firing	Kapustin Yar
20 Jul, 0054	Unidentified missile	Kapustin Yar
23 Jul, 1037	SS-4 MRBM	Kapustin Yar
25 Jul, 1729	Vertical firing	Kapustin Yar
25 Jul, 1844	SS-4 MRBM	Kapustin Yar
25 Jul, 1900	SS-7 ICBM	Kapustin Yar
26 Jul, 0001	Vertical firing	Plesetsk
30 Jul, 0700	Cosmos 234 (SL-4)	Kapustin Yar
30 Jul, 1730	SS-4 MRBM	Tyuratam
31 Jul, 1113	SS-12 SRBM	Kapustin Yar
31 Jul, 1303	Vertical firing	Kapustin Yar
31 Jul, 1853	Vertical firing	Kapustin Yar

\* Short range firing.

Soviet  
Missile,  
Rocket  
& Space  
Launches,  
July  
1968 (U)



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