

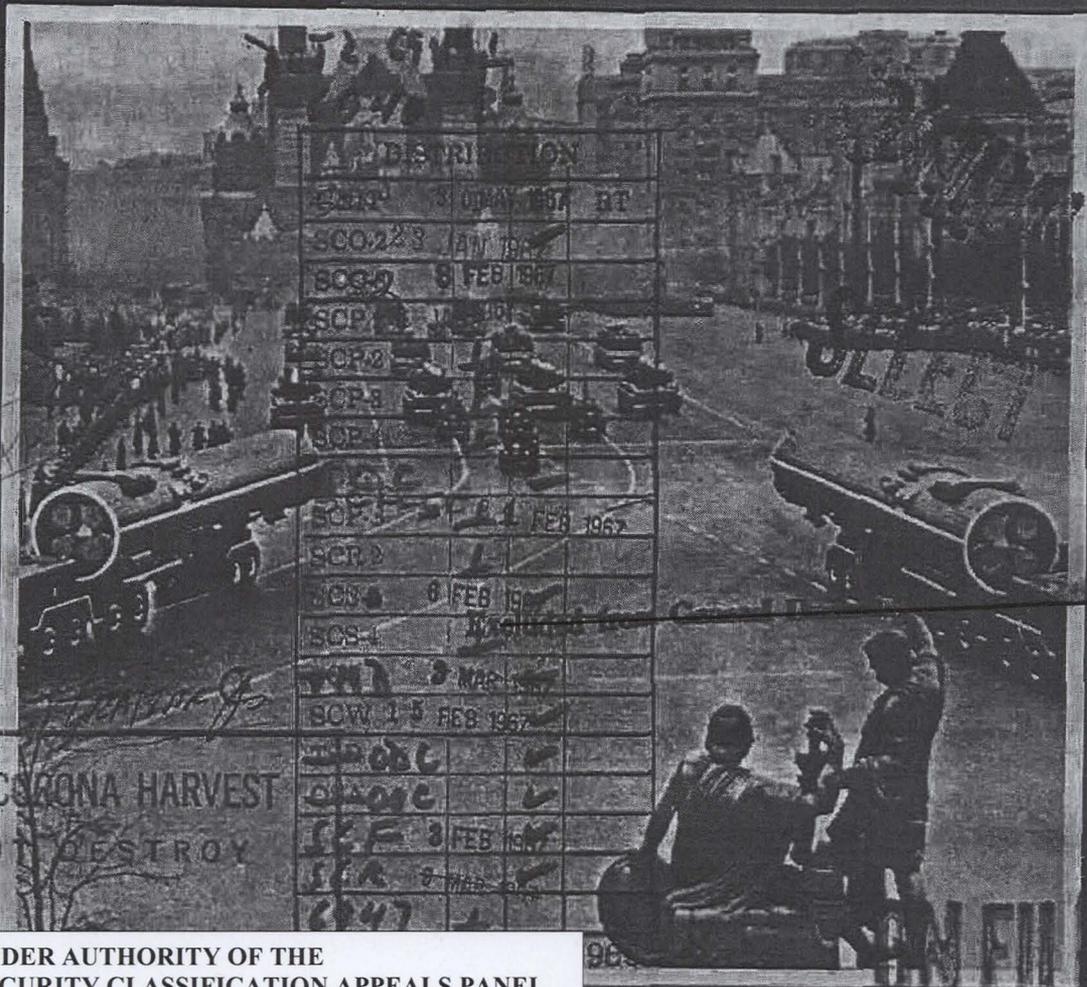
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# Defense Intelligence

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

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December 1966 • Volume 4 • Number 12



DECLASSIFIED UNDER AUTHORITY OF THE INTERAGENCY SECURITY CLASSIFICATION APPEALS PANEL, E.O. 13526, SECTION 5.3(b)(3)

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2009-068, document no. 250  
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: May 14, 2015

EXCLUDED FROM AUTOMATIC  
REGRADING: DCD DIR. 5200.10  
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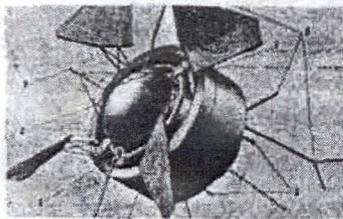
## SOVIET SPACE DEVELOPMENTS POINT TO LONGER FLIGHTS

THE USSR evidently is developing a new spacecraft for a future manned space flight. Cosmonaut Leonov, who "walked-in-space" in March 1965, recently stated that the success of work now underway on a new space vehicle would determine the timing of the next manned flight. He also implied that technological difficulties existed with the new spacecraft. In addition, Doctor-Cosmonaut Yegorev recently implied that the next Soviet manned mission would be radically different from previous flights. However, neither cosmonaut divulged the next flight date.

The Soviet Union also has been developing a new, large booster, the Proton, which has placed nearly 27,000 pounds into earth orbit. The Soviets indicate that the mission of the Proton vehicles "is for studying cosmic rays and for performing other scientific experiments."

The primary task of the Proton flights, however, is probably to proof-test a large two-stage booster (designated the SL-9) which undoubtedly will play a major role in future space events. The size and characteristics of this new launch system are unknown, but it may have a lift-off thrust between 2 and 4 million pounds, and a second-stage thrust of more than 500,000 pounds. The propulsion system probably is being manned; that is, undergoing tests to determine its reliability for manned flight. Eventually, it is likely to be used to orbit a multimanned laboratory to study man's capability to live and work in space for extended periods. Three of the four Proton launchings which used this new booster system have been successful.

The Soviets are expected soon to begin flight tests of a new spacecraft designed for eventual manned employment with a launch vehicle composed of the SL-9 and an upper stage. This spacecraft launch vehicle combination would be suitable for operations associated with large manned space stations or lunar probes. [S]



PROTON  
VEHICLE

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal