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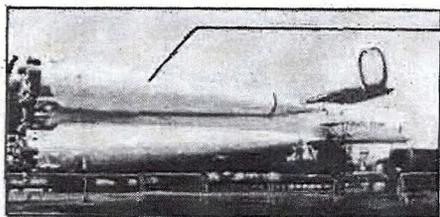
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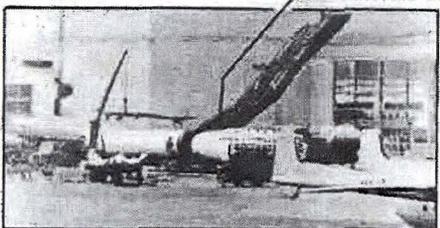


VOSTOK PAYLOAD

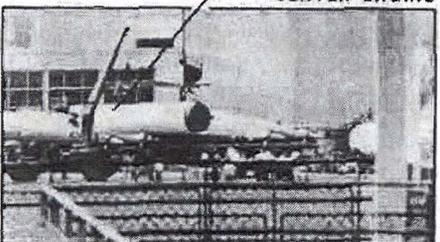
LUNIK UPPER STAGE



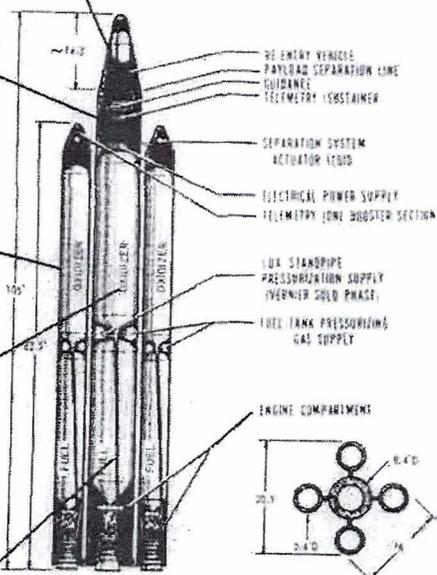
STRAP-ON ENGINE (4)



CENTER ENGINE OXIDIZER SECTION



CENTER ENGINE FUEL SECTION



Since January 1958, when the SS-6 was first fired, all Soviet manned space flights and Cosmos military reconnaissance satellites, and some scientific payloads, lunar, and interplanetary space probes, have used the SS-6, with different upper stage variants. These variants include:

- SL-3, a booster/sustainer with a third stage and payload designated Lunik.
- SL-4, a basic SS-6 booster/sustainer with an upper stage designated Venik. This combination can inject approximately 15,000 pounds into a 100-nautical-mile circular orbit and was used to launch Voskhod, all high-resolution, and a few low-resolution reconnaissance satellites.
- SL-6, the SL-4 launch system with the addition of a fourth stage known as the "interplanetary fourth stage." This system has been used for all interplanetary probes, the communication satellites (Molniya series) placed in high-elliptical orbits, and the recent Soviet lunar program using a parking orbit.

The SS-6 currently is the only man-rated Soviet space booster. Reliability of the vehicle has been very high, with the majority of the problems being attributed to the sustainer propellant-utilization system.

FIRST VIEW OF THE SS-6

SS-6, the most widely used booster in the Soviet space program, has been the principal launcher for more than 100 space shots. It had not been seen by Western observers until recently, when it was off-loaded from a ship at Rouen, France, for transport to the 1967 Paris Air Show (26 May-4 June).

