

PHOTOCOPIED BY THE KENNEDY LIBRARY DUE TO THE DETERIORATION OF THE ORIGINAL.

SFI-002

PP ESF

DE ESI

P 130003Z

FM CIA/OCI

TO WHITE HOUSE ATTN: SITUATION ROOM 09

ZEM

TOP SECRETrelayed to Maine 2120-
[Signature]

LTD DET

~~TOP SECRET~~ LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

50X1, E.O.13526

GMAIC ISSUED THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT AT 1900 HOURS EDT ON
12 AUGUST 1962 CONCERNING THE LAUNCHING OF SPUTNIK XX (VOSTOK III)
WITH MAJ. AN DRAIN G. NIKOLAYEV ABOARD AT 0829:59Z ON 11 AUGUST
1962, AND SPUTNIK XXI (VOSTOK IV) WITH LT COL. P R POPOVICH
ABOARD AT 0802:32Z ON 12 AUGUST 1962:

1. THE USSR HAS ACHIEVED ANOTHER SIGNIFICANT SPACE FIRST BY
LAUNCHING TWO MANNED EARTH SATELLITES FROM TYURA TAM APPROXIMATELY
ONE DAY APART. THE LAUNCHING OF VOSTOK IV WAS SYNCHRONIZED WITH
THE SIXTEENTH PASSAGE OF VOSTOK III SO AS TO PLACE THE TWO CAPSULES
IN VERY CLOSE PROXIMITY IN SPACE. BOTH OF THESE LAUNCHINGS PROBABLY
USED THE STANDARD VOSTOK LAUNCH VEHICLE CONFIGURATION (I.E., SS-6
ICBM AND LUNIK UPPER STAGE).

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

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2009-074, document no. 4
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: July 10, 2018

(7)

[2]

~~TOP SECRET~~

2. THE SOVIETS HAVE STATED THAT THE PURPOSE OF THIS SPACE MISSION IS THREEFOLD: (1) TO ESTABLISH COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COSMONAUTS, (2) TO STUDY DIFFERENCES IN THE BEHAVIOR OF TWO COSMONAUTS IN THE SAME SPACE ENVIRONMENT, AND (3) TO INVESTIGATE THE COORDINATION OF THEIR ACTIONS. [REDACTED] THE TWO CAPSULES COMMUNICATED WITH EACH OTHER. THERE IS ADEQUATE TELEMETRY AND TELEVISION COVERAGE OF BOTH COSMONAUTS TO CONFIRM THAT THE STUDY OF THEIR DIFFERENTIAL BEHAVIOR WAS ALSO AN OBJECTIVE OF THE MISSION. THE THIRD STATED OBJECTIVE IS AMBIGUOUS AND HEDGED SO AS TO SUPPORT A WIDE RANGE OF POSSIBLE RESULTS. IT COULD REFER TO INVESTIGATING THE COORDINATED OPERATION OF TWO MANNED SPACECRAFT, TO GENERAL RENDEZVOUS IN SPACE, OR TO AN ACTUAL DOCKING ATTEMPT (I.E., PHYSICAL CONTACT OF THE TWO CAPSULES). IT IS NOW CLEAR THAT THE SOVIETS INTENDED TO DOCK THE TWO CAPSULES AND HAVE EVIDENTLY SUCCEEDED.

50X1, E.O.13526

(2)

[3]

3. TRAJECTORIES

50X1, E.O.13526

[] INDICATE THAT THE TWO MANNED VOSTOK CAPSULES WERE PLACED WITHIN SEVERAL MILES OF ONE ANOTHER IN THE INITIAL LAUNCHING. THIS ^{SEPARATION} ~~SEPARATION~~

WAS DRASTICALLY REDUCED SOMETIME PRIOR TO THE END OF THE FOURTH ORBIT OF THE SECOND CAPSULE WHEN THE TRACKING DATA OF THE TWO CAPSULES DRASTICALLY COINCIDED. THE AGREEMENT IS SO CLOSE THAT IT IS ALMOST CERTAIN THAT THE TWO SPACECRAFT WERE ACTUALLY DOCKED.

50X1, E.O.13526

[] COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO SPACECRAFT AND GROUND STATIONS INDICATE THAT THE TWO COSMONAUTS CARRIED OUT A DEFINITE PLAN FOR RENDEZVOUS.

~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1, E.O.13526

4. THE CO-ORBITING AND DOCKING OF THE TWO MANNED CAPSULES REPRESENT A REMARKABLE TECHNICAL ACHIEVEMENT. THE SPLIT SECOND TIMING OF THE LAUNCHING INDICATES THE HIGH RELIABILITY OF THE SOVIET ROCKET VEHICLES EMPLOYED AND THE SUPPORTING GROUND SYSTEMS. THE MISSION HAS DEMONSTRATED FOR THE FIRST TIME A USEFUL ORBITAL CONTROL MANUEVER AND ACTUAL DOCKING OF SPACECRAFT. FURTHERMORE, IF IT SHOULD DEVELOP THAT MEN OR EQUIPMENT WERE ACTUALLY TRANSFERRED BETWEEN THE CAPSULES, THEN THE MISSION BECOMES EVEN MORE SIGNIFICANT. ACCOMPLISHMENT OF THESE FEATS WOULD OPEN A NEW SPECTRUM OF SOVIET SPACE ACTIVITIES, AMONG WHICH WE INCLUDE (1) DOCKING FOR MANNED LUNAR MISSION, (2) CREATION OF MANNED SPACE STATION, (3) IDENTIFICATION AND INSPECTION OF ORBITING SPACE VEHICLES. HOWEVER, WE PROBABLY WILL HAVE TO ANALYZE THE COMPLETED MISSION IN DETAIL TO FULLY APPRECIATE THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS EVENT.

[4]

5. GMAIC PREVIOUSLY ESTIMATED THAT THE SOVIET HAD THE CAPABILITY FOR RENDEZVOUS DURING 1962. HOWEVER, THE ACTUAL DOCKING WAS NOT EXPECTED UNTIL 1963 AND THE CAPABILITY FOR TRANSFER OF MEN AND EQUIPMENT

NOT UNTIL 1965. THE PRESENT SPACE MISSION INDICATES THAT A DOCKING CAPABILITY WAS ACHIEVED SOONER THAN ESTIMATED. IF, IN ADDITION, A TRANSFER WAS ACHIEVED, WE MUST CONSIDER SOVIET SPACE TECHNOLOGY CONSIDERABLY MORE ADVANCED THAN OUR ESTIMATE INDICATED.

6. AT THE PRESENT TIME IT IS NOT POSSIBLE TO DETERMINE HOW OR WHEN VOSTOKS III AND IV WILL BE RECOVERED. RADIO MOSCOW ANNOUNCED THAT THE TWO SPACE SHIPS "JOINED TOGETHER" AT 1130Z AND THAT "THEY WILL BE SOON COMING DOWN TOGETHER." BASED ON PREVIOUS OPERATIONS THE EARLIEST RECOVERY WOULD BE EXPECTED AT 0730Z ON 13 AUGUST. IF THEY UTILIZE THE SAME GENERAL AREA AS USED FOR GAGARIN AND TITOV, RECOVERY WOULD OCCUR ONE ORBIT LATER AT ABOUT 0900Z. SIMILAR SUITABLE RECOVERY TIMES OCCUR DAILY AT SLIGHTLY LESS THAN 24-HOUR INTERVALS. IF THE CAPSULES ARE IN FACT JOINED OR THE PASSENGERS ARE NOW IN A SINGLE VEHICLE ONE RECOVERY OPERATION IS CONSIDERED LIKELY. IF THE CAPSULES ARE SEPARATED, RECOVERY OF BOTH COULD BE ACHIEVED ON THE SAME ORBIT, ON SUCCEEDING ORBITS TO TWO SEPARATE RECOVERY AREAS, OR ABOUT 24 HOURS LATER IF THEY CHOOSE TO USE THE SAME RECOVERY AREA AND AIRCRAFT.

SCP-1

5400 5400

13/0045Z AUG

~~TOP SECRET~~

50X1, E.O.13526

LTD DIST