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~~Top Secret~~ *FA*

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[Redacted]



DIRECTORATE OF
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WEEKLY SURVEYOR

SERIES "BL"

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[Redacted]

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CIA OSI

[Redacted]

27 January 1969

[Redacted]

53

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

Weekly Surveyor

[REDACTED]
27 January 1969

Status of Soviet Preparations for Manned Lunar Spaceflight:
At the International Astronautical Federation (IAF) meeting in October 1968, the Soviets left a distinct impression that they do not feel that they have, as of now, a man-rated vehicle and propulsion system which could carry a man around the moon without extreme risk. [REDACTED]

Comment: The Zond 4-6 flights give evidence that the Soviets are preparing for manned spaceflights at lunar distances. These flights appear to be related to an early phase of design development and flight testing similar to that of Sputniks 4, 5, and 6 which preceded the first Soviet manned flight, Vostok 1. Zonds 4-6 were involved in check-out of

4

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

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~~TOP SECRET~~ [REDACTED]

Weekly Surveyor

[REDACTED]
27 January 1969

systems such as biotelemetry, voice communications between ground stations and the spacecraft at lunar distances, guidance and control, and reentry. Zond 6 demonstrated low g reentry from the moon and Zonds 5 and 6 included biological payloads.

Events in early January led to the prediction that in the near future the Soviets probably would carry out further unmanned flights similar to Zonds 4-6 in order to develop and man-rate their lunar spacecraft. On 20 January the Soviets did, in fact, appear to have made an unmanned circumlunar attempt, but it failed to achieve earth orbit. The first Soviet manned lunar-related flight may be planned for sometime during the mid to latter part of this year or during 1970. [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

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