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Mandatory Review

Case # NLJ 09-63 ISCAP Appeal

Document # 31

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(The following is text of CIA Report)

Monday, October 4, 1965

4:20 PM

Soviet Lunar Probe Launched

1. The Soviets launched a lunar probe from Tyuratam today at 3:36 AM EDT. The probe was placed into a parking orbit (74 to 183 nautical miles) and then injected into a lunar trajectory about ninety minutes later.

2. The Soviets have announced the probe, designating it Lunik 7, and stated that it weighs about 3,600 pounds and is operating normally. They did not announce a mission objective, but the last two launches--Lunik 5 and 6--were apparently intended as soft-landers.

3. We know that the probe has ejected, 50X1
50X1 It is still too early, however, to know whether the lunar trajectory achieved is satisfactory or whether the spacecraft's systems are functioning properly.

4. Lunik 7 should reach the vicinity of the moon on Thursday about 1:30 PM EDT.

Classification Affirmed Under Authority of the
Interagency Security Classification Appeals Panel,
E.O. 13526, sec. 5.3(b)(3)
ISCAP Appeal No. 2012-023, document 5
Decision Date: May 26, 2021