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NLN-NSC-362-2-16-4

[50/00/10]

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

ISCAP APPEAL NO. 2012-046, document no. 4
DECLASSIFICATION DATE: December 3, 2015

~~Top Secret~~



NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE ESTIMATE

Soviet Space Programs

(Special Supplement to the Supporting Analysis)

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U.S.C., section 403g)



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NIE 11-1-73
TCS 889080-73//
20 December 1973

No 2

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The following intelligence organizations participated in the preparation of the estimate:

The Central Intelligence Agency and the intelligence organizations of the Departments of State and Defense, and the NSA.

Concurring:

- The Deputy Director of Central Intelligence
- The Director of Intelligence and Research, Department of State
- The Director, Defense Intelligence Agency
- The Director, National Security Agency
- The Assistant General Manager for National Security, Atomic Energy Commission

Abstaining:

The Assistant Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Special Assistant to the Secretary of the Treasury, Department of the Treasury, the subject being outside of their jurisdiction.

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NIE 11-1-73

SOVIET SPACE PROGRAMS
(Special Supplement to the Supporting Analysis)

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SOVIET SPACE PROGRAMS (Supporting Analysis)

SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT

25X1, E.O.13526

have provided key additional data on the organization of the USSR's space effort and on the use of communications relay satellites. This information has materially affected our overall understanding of the USSR's space program. Although the various types of data bear on separate aspects of the space program, all the information is combined in this one supplement for ease in presentation.

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GRU and KGB Use of Satellite Communications

Evidence indicates that in 1965 the GRU had planned and was developing satellites for communications with intelligence agents abroad. An entire institute was then involved in designing a radio set adaptable to satellite use. The satellite/radio project reportedly was dropped in 1968, but apparently was later revived. The Soviets reportedly felt that, when functional, it would provide world-wide coverage of GRU agent communications.

The KGB reportedly collaborated in the late 1960s with the GRU and various technical agencies in developing an agent-related space communications system. While we are not aware that the KGB has used satellites to relay agent-related data, there is evidence that

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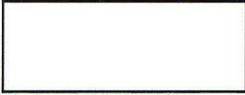
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