

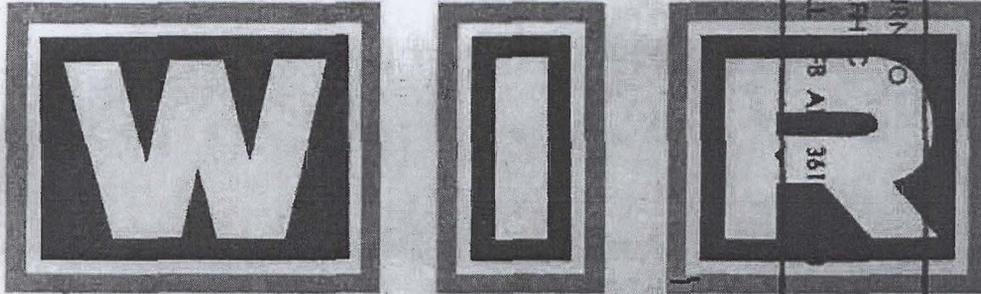
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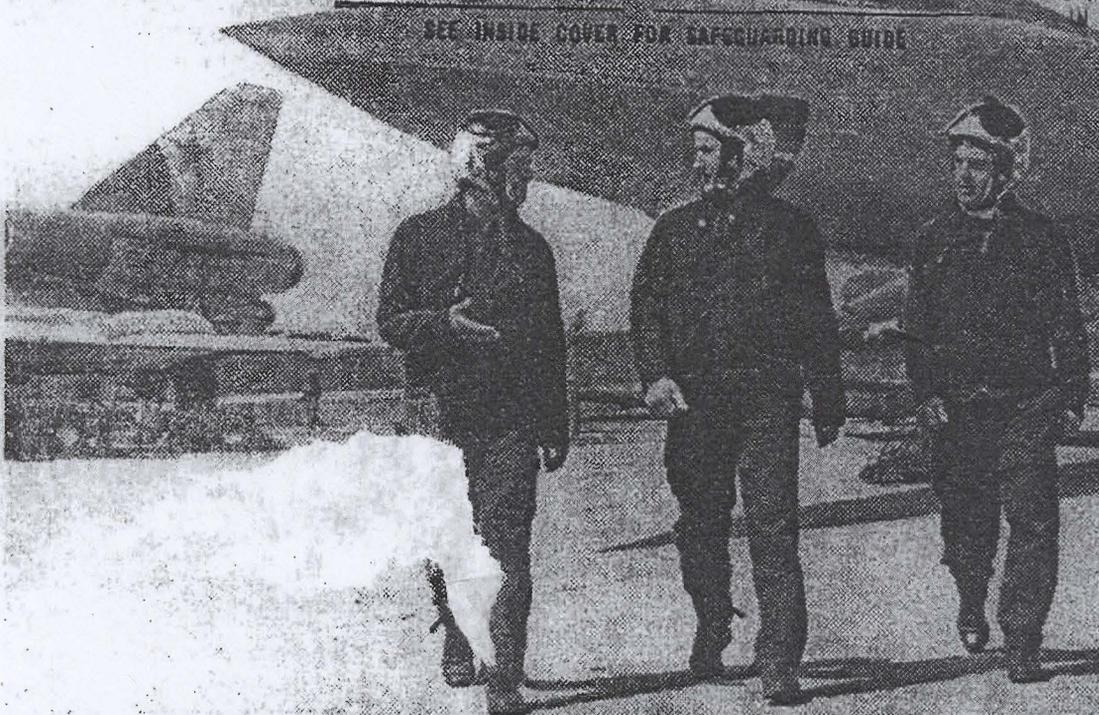
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The WIR in Brief

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Space

SOVIETS TRY TO GET U.S. TO AGREE TO CHANGED USE OF MOSCOW-WASHINGTON METSAT DATA LINK ¹⁰

Moscow not using it to capacity.

SOVIETS UPGRADING OPTICAL SPACETRACKING STATION IN EGYPT ¹³

Helwan probably to get newest Soviet tracking camera.

COSMOS 235 IS SOVIETS' 17th RECCE SATELLITE LAUNCH OF 1968 ¹³

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

COVER: Pilots of Soviet Naval Aviation (BLINDER bombers) (Soviet press) (OFFICIAL USE ONLY)

NOTE: Pages 30, 32, 33, 36, 37, 40, 41, 44, and 45 of this issue are blank.

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significant
intelligence
on space
developments
and trends

Soviets Try to Get US to Agree to Changed Use of Moscow-Washington Metsat Data Link ~~(C)~~

The Soviets, ever since the direct Moscow-Washington communication line for exchanging meteorological satellite (metsat) data was established in 1964, have tried to get the US to agree to use the line for passing conventional weather and other geophysical data. Their motivation in 1964 was obvious, for it was both costly and embarrassing for them to maintain a facility which they could not use: they had no operational metsats at that time. But even now, with 3 metsats in operation, the Soviets are not using the line to full capacity.

More recently, the Soviets have proposed that the line should be a major link in the world-wide communication system being established to support the World Weather Watch (WWW). If the line were to be used in this program it would be filled to capacity with conventional data and would cease serving as a channel for the direct exchange of weather satellite data.

This would not worry the Soviets very much, since they could still obtain data from US satellites by direct readout from the APT (automatic picture transmission) system when the US satellites come within line of sight of Soviet receiving equipment. And by using the line for the WWW, Moscow might receive North and South American conventional weather data on North and South America somewhat faster than it now does.

Moreover, this channeling could make European countries dependent on the USSR instead of the US for this data if existing channels to Europe were cut off.

(CIA)

~~(CONFIDENTIAL)~~

Soviets Upgrading Optical Spacetracking Station in Egypt ~~(S)~~

The Soviets are upgrading the optical spacetracking station at Helwan,

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Egypt. In May, a shipment of electronic and photographic apparatus arrived in Egypt, to complement Soviet apparatus already there, and in June 3 Soviet scientists specializing in tracking satellites arrived.

The reported tracking equipment is probably the new tracking camera developed by the Soviets for their planned worldwide network of precise optical spacetracking stations. Helwan apparently will be one of the stations of this net. Although the equipment will improve Soviet optical tracking capability, it will not match the performance of US advanced satellite-tracking cameras. The electronic equipment which arrived in Egypt in May is probably auxiliary equipment for the new camera and other optical devices. It is not believed that Helwan has any electronic tracking capability.

The Soviet worldwide optical tracking net is still in its infancy. Apparatus at stations of the net ranges from the standard optical tracking camera NAFA 3S/25 to the new improved tracking camera. Helwan is the 5th station to get the new camera; the others are located in Riga (USSR), Antarctica, Cuba, and Mali. The Soviets may also be able to track satellites optically in Chile, and they reportedly also are seeking to set up at least one other optical tracking site in South America.

One of the objectives of the worldwide tracking net would be to establish or improve Soviet geodetic ties with other continents, both for scientific purposes and for improving Soviet ICBM targeting.

(CIA)

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Cosmos 235 is Soviets' 17th Recce Satellite Launch of 1968 (S)

Cosmos 235, which the Soviets launched from Tyuram at about 0658Z, 9 August, is a military reconnaissance satellite, the 17th launched by the Soviets this year. It was injected into an orbital inclination of about 52 degrees by the SL-4 propulsion system.

50X1 and 3, E.O.13526

This spacecraft will be de-orbited 17 August, if the normal 8-day mission is flown.

(NORAD)

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