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Defense Intelligence

NO FOREIGN DISSEMINATION

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DEFENSE INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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Surveillance systems now include the most advanced operational media, capably applied to collect highly specialized information with proportionate attention designated to the foreign military

Developments in SOVIET RECONNAISSANCE

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

Reconnaissance in space

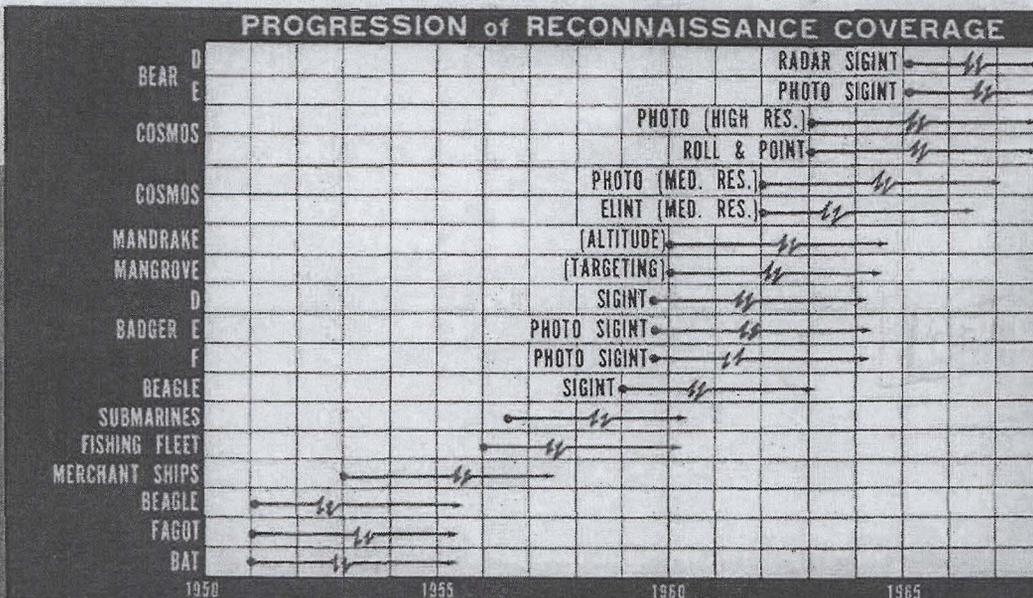
With the advent of space satellites, the Soviet reconnaissance capability took a series of quantum jumps. Cosmos 4, the first Soviet reconnaissance satellite, was orbited on 20 April 1962 from the Tyuratam Missile Test Range. By 22 April 1963, six more of these vehicles had been launched for R&D purposes, with flight durations of from three to eight days. The series was probably a photographic reconnaissance mission over targets of interest, including some coverage of the United States. Four of the flights incorporated a video link.

A low-resolution reconnaissance space system became operational on 28 April 1963 with the launching of Cosmos 16. Satellites in this system are capable of low-resolution photography

[redacted] A second payload, flown along with the low-resolu-

Portion identified as non-responsive to the appeal

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tion photographic payload, collects electromagnetic data from ground-based emitters. The activity of this payload is worldwide. Such parameters as scan rates, frequency, pulse repetition frequency, and pulse widths probably are collected.

On 16 November 1965, with the launch of Cosmos 22, the Soviets initiated a high-resolution system capable of more specific coverage of small areas. The system

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At the time of launch of the high-resolution system, the Soviets had achieved the capability of photographing the earth between latitudes 65 degrees north and south. On 23 June 1964 the Soviets launched Cosmos 32 into an orbit with a 51-degree inclination. This orbit provided more coverage of the United States during daylight and for the first time permitted photography on descending passes. In March 1966 the Soviets be-

gan using the Plesetsk Missile and Space Complex, to launch reconnaissance vehicles into inclinations of 72 as well as 65 degrees, expanding the coverage of the earth to latitudes 72 degrees north and south.

The USSR apparently is satisfied with both the high- and low-resolution systems; no major changes have been observed over the years. Both systems have been launched to the 51-, 65-, and 72-degree inclinations using the SL-3 and SL-4 launch vehicles, which allow for periodic reconnaissance of designated target areas. Flight duration of the systems appears to have stabilized at eight days, with a new launch about every two weeks. Probably under surveillance are such activities as shipbuilding, nuclear-test sites, war games, major construction projects of all types, and dispersal of aircraft of the Strategic Air Command.

The overall Soviet reconnaissance effort in intelligence collection may be considered sufficient for the current mission and will probably improve to meet the challenge of broadened requirements. [END]