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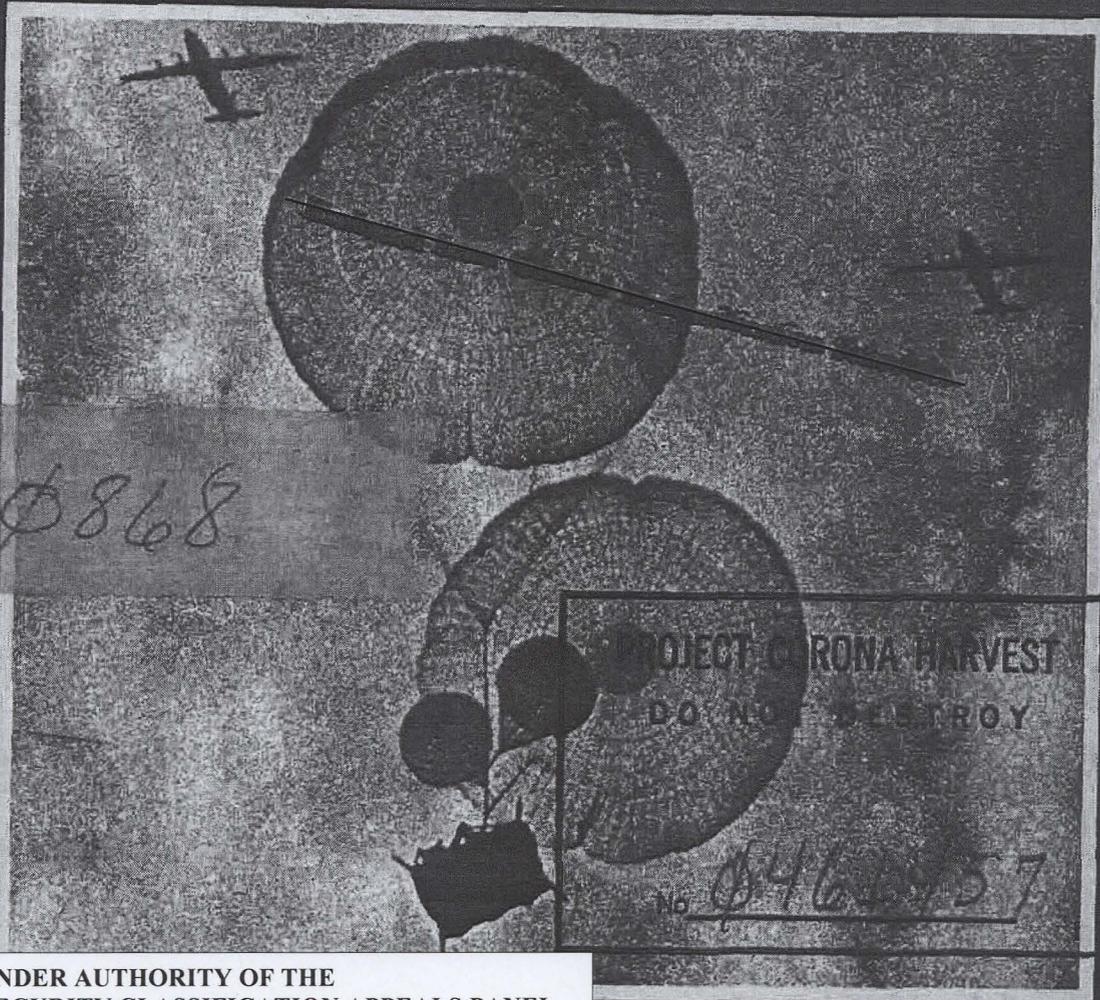
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## FOREWORD

**MISSION:** The mission of the monthly *Defense Intelligence Digest* is to provide all components of the Department of Defense and other United States agencies with timely intelligence of wide professional in-

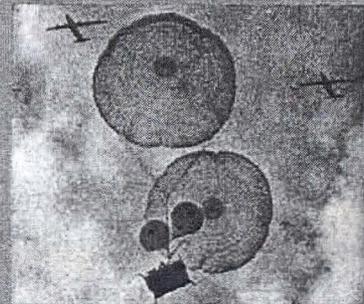
terest on significant developments and trends in the military capabilities and vulnerabilities of foreign nations. Emphasis is placed primarily on nations and forces within the Communist World.

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*Joseph F. Carroll*

JOSEPH F. CARROLL  
Lt General, USAF  
Director



Soviet paratroop of equipment and vehicles during Exercise Dnepr. For further details, see article beginning on page 28. [U]

# SOVIET MISSILE AND SPACE PRODUCTION AUTHORITIES REALIGNED

Recently created Ministry of Machine Building may be the new control authority for the missile production program, while the Ministry of General Machine Building, responsible since 1965 for the Soviet missile and space production programs, now oversees only space vehicle production.

**T**HE recent Sixth Congress of the Trade Union of Workers of the Aviation and Defense Industries, has resulted in what is probably a realignment of the ministerial control authorities for missile and space production and in the establishment of a new ministry. On 5 February 1968, the USSR announced the establishment of the all-union Ministry of Machine Building, but made no reference to its mission. The name of the new Ministry, as was the case with its two predecessors—the General Machine

Building, which between 1965 and the first of 1968 was the control authority for the missile and space production programs, and the Medium Machine Building, which oversees the nuclear programs—is probably designed to cover up its role as a control authority in the area of nuclear-missile-space programs.

From all indications, the new Ministry will have overall responsibility for missile production, while the Ministry of General Machine Building will now take full responsibility for

the space production program. The emergence of the Ministry of Machine Building raises the possibility that the requirements involved in an expanding missile program, in the supervision of extensive solid-propellant facilities, and in the simultaneous expansion of the space program are simply too numerous and diverse for one control authority. A more efficient management of advanced weapons production control is evidently the goal, and the recent organizational changes may portend even greater efforts in the missile and space programs.

The Sixth Congress, which met in Moscow on 30 January 1968 and continued during the first several days of February, was attended by the leading Soviet personalities responsible for missile, space, and aircraft production programs. These included D. F. Ustinov, Candidate Member of the Politburo, who exercises great authority for the Communist Party over the Soviet missile and space programs, and his deputy, L. V. Smirnov, former head of the State Committee for Defense Technology and long associated with the personalities and organizations involved in the missile/space programs. Other significant participants, in the order of their importance, were S. A. Afanasyev, head of the Ministry of General Machine Building, and P. V. Dementyev, head of the Ministry of Aviation. The Ministry of Defense Industry was not represented, at least not on the ministerial level.

The new head of the Ministry of Machine Building is the former deputy of the Ministry of Defense Industry, V. V. Bakhirev, who probably attended the conference as the representative of the new Ministry. It is significant that the Machine Building Ministry has as its head an individual whose background is related to missile development and production. The Ministry of Defense Industry will now have a lesser degree of authority than previously in missile production.

In addition to overall responsibility for Soviet missile production, it is possible that the Machine Building Ministry will be responsible for the Soviet antiballistic missile (ABM) production program. This is within the realm of possibility, particularly in view of the coincidence between the establishment of the new Ministry and the initial operational deployment of an ABM system. [END]

