

**SECRET**

1. SINCE THE USSR FIRST AIRED ITS INTERSPUTNIK PROPOSAL AT THE UN CONFERENCE ON EXPLORATION AND PEACEFUL USES OF OUTER SPACE IN AUGUST 1968, THE NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES TO THE PROPOSAL HAS NOT INCREASED BEYOND THE ORIGINAL EIGHT--BULGARIA, CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, HUNGARY, MONGOLIA, POLAND, ROMANIA, AND THE USSR. AT THAT TIME, THE USSR EXTENDED INVITATION TO MEMBERSHIP IN INTERSPUTNIK TO ALL NATIONS BUT HAS NOT YET PUSHED VERY HARD FOR NEW CUSTOMERS.

2. AT LEAST FIVE INTERSPUTNIK WORKING GROUP CONFERENCES (SOME PUBLICIZED AND OTHERS UNANNOUNCED) HAVE BEEN HELD SINCE 1967 IN AN ATTEMPT TO LAY THE GROUNDWORK FOR AND FORMALIZE THE INTERSPUTNIK ORGANIZATION. THE MOST RECENT OF THESE WORKING GROUP MEETINGS WAS HELD IN BUCHAREST FROM 16-20 FEBRUARY 1971 (SOURCE: BUCHAREST DOMESTIC BROADCAST SERVICE, 20 FEBRUARY 1971). AMONG THE ATTENDEES WAS PROFESSOR ALEXANDRU SPATARU, ROMANIA'S DIRECTOR OF THE STATE COMMITTEE FOR SPACE ACTIVITIES WHO STATED THAT "SOME (BUT NOT MUCH) PROGRESS WAS MADE TO DRAW UP AN AGREEMENT" AND ALSO THAT "INTERSPUTNIK IS STILL ONLY AN IDEA AND NO HARDWARE EXISTS, NOT EVEN ON THE DRAWING BOARD." (SOURCE: INCOMING STATE AIRGRAM, A-93, BUCHAREST, 2 APRIL 1971, SECRET). THE REPONDERANCE OF EVIDENCE TO DATA SUPPORTS SPATARU'S STATEMENTS, ALTHOUGH OUR ABILITY TO DETECT WHAT IS ON THE DRAWING BOARD IS LIMITED.

3. CURRENTLY, INTERSPUTNIK'S ONLY CONCRETE CLAIM TO INTERNATIONAL STATUS IS THE FACT THAT THE USSR HAS BUILT AN ORBITA (TV-RECEIVE ONLY) STATION FOR MONGOLIA AT ULAN BATOR. FOR OTHER INTERSPUTNIK SIGNATORIES, SOVIET EFFORTS THUS FAR HAVE BEEN CONFINED TO PROMISES. IN JANUARY 1970, THE USSR FORMALIZED A PROMISE MADE IN 1965 TO PROVIDE CUBA WITH A FULL-SERVICE (I.E., CAPABLE OF HANDLING MULTICHANNEL COMMUNICATIONS

**SECRET**

**SECRET**

-2-

AS WELL AS TV) GROUND STATION. (SOURCE: HAVANA DOMESTIC BROADCAST SERVICE, 9 JANUARY 1970). IN MARCH 1970, AN AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED UNDER WHICH THE SOVIET UNION IS COMMITTED TO PROVIDE CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH AN ORBITA STATION (SOURCE: BBC BASED ON PRAGUE CTK PRESS RELEASE 15 MARCH 1970). IN A FURTHER AGREEMENT, ANNOUNCED IN JULY 1970, THE USSR PROMISED TO BUILD A FULL SERVICE GROUND STATION IN BULGARIA FOR USE WITH THE INTERSPUTNIK SYSTEM (SOURCE TASS PRESS RELEASE, 8 JULY 1970). THUS FAR THERE IS NO EVIDENCE THAT ACTUAL CONSTRUCTION HAS BEEN STARTED ON GROUND STATIONS IN CUBA, CZECHOSLOVAKIA OR BULGARIA.

4. IT IS LIKELY THAT THE USSR NOW VIEWS INTERSPUTNIK MORE AS A REGIONAL SYSTEM THAN AS A COMPETITOR WITH INTELSAT FOR WORLDWIDE COVERAGE. ALTHOUGH INTERSPUTNIK IS STILL ONLY A PAPER ORGANIZATION, ITS EXISTENCE PROBABLY RESTRAINS THE COMMUNIST COUNTRIES ALLIED WITH THE USSR FROM SEEKING MEMBERSHIP IN INTELSAT WHILE AT THE SAME TIME PROVIDING THE USSR WITH A DIPLOMATIC BARGAINING COUNTER IN ANY DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS THAT MAY EVOLVE WITH INTELSAT.

**SECRET**