

DRAFT

9 June 1964

SUBJECT: Implications of the Soviet ~~Satellite~~ Satellite Reconnaissance Program

1. The accompanying analysis of the Tyuratam Cosmos series of satellites has identified 11 satellites as certain or probable military reconnaissance missions. The development and engineering flights of this military reconnaissance camera system probably began with two launches in the latter part of 1962. The operational phase of the program, producing interpretable coverage in quantity, probably began in 1963.

2. The Tyuratam Cosmos series, including weather reporting, military reconnaissance, and other missions, is estimated to have accounted for about 20 percent of total expenditures for known Soviet space programs. Based on the costs of US scientific satellites, we estimate that the absolute cost ~~may~~ has been about 700 million to one billion dollars. The bulk of the Tyuratam Cosmos series, 11 out of 15 satellites, appears to have been directly concerned with military reconnaissance, and could have cost the USSR as much as 500 to 700 million dollars so far.

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3. These costs are rough because we lack intelligence on the details of the Soviet program. It is apparent, however, that the USSR is spending on military reconnaissance a proportionately large share of its space budget.

4. We believe that the USSR has been compelled to make this large investment in a satellite military reconnaissance program primarily for missile targeting purposes. Strategic missile systems require precise information on the geodetic relationship of the target to the launch point. Accurate geodetic targeting information is only obtainable by satellite photography. The estimated resolution being obtained ~~by current Soviet satellite cameras~~ by current Soviet satellite cameras--10 to 30 feet--is sufficient to obtain such targeting information.

5. In addition to the primary targeting need, the USSR can obtain intelligence of secondary value on the deployment patterns of US Long Range bombers and carrier forces, intelligence coverage which cannot be completely and consistently satisfied by other sources.

6. There also are two major Soviet requirements for development of a satellite reconnaissance system for ~~promptly~~ promptly transmitting photos while in flight. The USSR has an important potential need for collecting

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indications intelligence on (1) movements of US strategic forces during crisis and wartime situations, and (2) intelligence on wartime strike results. Four Tyuratka Cosmos satellites, which transmitted weather photography, have demonstrated development of such a capability even though the photography in those instances was not of military reconnaissance quality.

7. The effort which the Soviets have made in their reconnaissance satellite program implies that in the future they are likely to be tolerant of similar US programs. Indeed, Khrushchev's outspokenness in recent interviews with William Benton and Drew Pearson--both known to have good contacts and considerable influence in Washington--suggested a desire on his part for a tacit understanding with the US on this subject at the same time he exploited the existence of our respective programs to make a political point on Cuba. We continue to estimate that the Soviets intend to develop an antisatellite capability. They may develop a limited capability at an early date so as to be able to retaliate if the US should interfere with a Soviet satellite. In our view, however, the existence of a Soviet reconnaissance satellite program considerably reduces the likelihood of a Soviet

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attempt to destroy or neutralize a US satellite.

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USSR CHARGES U.S. DEVELOPING FERRET-SAMOS

The Soviet Union has charged that the United States is planning to equip its SAMOS recon satellites with devices to conduct radio reconnaissance and create jamming obstacles.

(The accusation is in reference to the so-called FERRET satellite system, whereby radio communications within the Soviet Union are monitored from over-orbiting satellites for intelligence purposes. It is theoretically possible for over-orbiting satellites to be equipped with radio jamming devices, such as those to be used preceding or during a Soviet missile or space launching, but only if the frequency of the Soviet transmitters and receivers are known.)

The Soviets said that in addition to satellites that recon military installations (SAMOS), other satellites are being equipped with "electronic and anti-radio equipment." Soviet military personnel were warned to use radio equipment in strict compliance with existing rules of instruction and orders.

"This will help to insure that the long extended radio ears of Pentagon espionage do not fulfill the hopes pinned to them by the international imperialist circles," the Soviet statement said.

In contradiction Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev recently as much as confirmed that his COSMOS series of satellites are involved in military reconnaissance of Western military targets (SPACE Daily, June 2).

MISSILE PRODUCTION FREEZE PLAN REINTRODUCED

The United States has reintroduced its proposal for a freeze on missile production at the opening summer session of the 17-Nation Disarmament Conference.

Our country's delegates have also proposed a cutoff in manufacture of fissionable material for nuclear weapons, prevention of the further spread of atomic arms to more nations and the destruction of obsolescent U.S. and Soviet jet bombers.

Delegate William C. Foster said the nations at the conference should seek more East-West agreements to halt the arms race rather than continue the search for immediate general and complete disarmament.

Foster said the verification problem could be reconciled. He said the United States has a plan which is the result of a research program costing "tens of millions of dollars." The inspection would be confined only to those objects which have to be placed under scrutiny to avoid cheating.

GOP URGES MLF APPROVAL

Rep. Albert H. Quie of Minnesota, Chairman of the GOP Task Force on NATO Unity, has said that the multi-lateral missile fleet (MLF) is a "first step" toward the goal of unified NATO control of nuclear weapons and would help to "straighten out the ailing Alliance."

Quie said unified nuclear control would avoid the "dangerous potential of nuclear forces in the hands of individual nations" and would decrease the likelihood of accidental nuclear war.

The congressman warned against one nation control of MLF weapons. He admitted that the strategic value of MLF was doubtful but it is at least a "political