

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR REPORT NO. [REDACTED]

SUBJECT 1. Announcement of Earth Satellite Launching at Soviet Embassy Reception on 4 October 1957
 2. Comments on the First Earth Satellite and Future Soviet Plans

DATE OF INFO. [REDACTED]

PLACE & DATE ACQ. [REDACTED]

DATE DISTR. 28 November 1957

NO. PAGES 2

REQUIREMENT NO. [REDACTED]

REFERENCES [REDACTED]

SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE. APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.

SOURCE [REDACTED]

- While at the Soviet Embassy reception the evening of 4 October 1957, Dr. L.V. Berkner received a message indirectly from Walter J. Sullivan, correspondent of the New York Times, that the Soviets had launched their satellite. This message was received by Dr. Berkner at approximately 7:00 p.m. Dr. Berkner requested Vladimir Dudenkov, Third Secretary of the Soviet Embassy, to secure the attention of the people attendant at the reception as he would like to make an announcement. As soon as the attention of the group was obtained, Dr. Berkner made the announcement that he wished to congratulate the Soviet scientists for their first successful launching of a satellite. At the conclusion of this statement, the group started to applaud and joined in by the group.
- About five minutes after this announcement, Soviet delegate V.V. Belousov received dispatches confirming this announcement. These were apparently press dispatches. Shortly after this announcement, most of the American scientists left the reception and reported back to a central point for the purpose of immediately going to work on their scientific computations. All military radio stations were alerted, and all amateur stations including the Moon Watch. It is felt, in reference to the observation points alerted by the American scientists, that the US has better observational points than the USSR.
- Additional Soviet earth satellites will be launched evenly throughout the IGY. It is expected that approximately one a month will be launched. The weight and size of the satellite indicates that the launching device is apparently of the Atlas type with at least a 300,000 pound booster. The purpose of this satellite will be to measure atmospheric temperature. As the USSR continues to launch satellites, it is expected that the instrumentation and quality of the satellite will steadily improve. The first one weighs 83.6 kgs. or approximately 184 pounds. The orbit has been computed to be one hour and 35 minutes. The angle of launching is 65 degrees from the equator (estimate). Possibilities exist, however, that this is strictly a military experiment and could include photographic facilities.

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STATE	X	ARMY	X	NAVY	EV	X	AIR	EV	X	NSA	ACC	OSI/EV	X	ORR/EV	X
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Approved for Release
Date 1 SEP 1996

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4. A point of significance made by source was the fact that it is undoubtedly the objective of the Soviets to develop space travel within the next few years. During the week, A.A. Blagonravov, member of the USSR Academy of Sciences and delegate, had on at least three separate occasions, touched on this subject and is obviously extremely interested in this possibility. It was recalled by source that Blagonravov is the owner of a full-grown dog which five years ago was successfully used in experimental space travel with no ill effects.
5. On future launchings the Soviets have promised that data will be given to the United States within two hours of the satellite launching.
6. Source indicated that a new international advisory group on satellites will be formed consisting of Dr. Homer Newell, S.M. Poloskov, with Dr. L.V. Berkner as chairman. Other members may be added. It is interesting to note that in the discussion of the formation of this committee, Poloskov wanted Massey of Great Britain to be chairman. However, the final decision was that Dr. Berkner would be chairman.
7. Source indicated that if one had taken the time to consider the estimated angle of launching of the Soviet satellite, approximately 60 or 65 degrees, one might have figured out the approximate time of launching and time of season which would make the satellite most visible over a greater part of the USSR.
8. No additional information could be secured relative to the type of antenna used on the satellite at this time. The Soviets maintained that they were not that close to the technical side of the satellite development.

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1-21-58

LIST OF STATIONS
FOR VISUAL OBSERVATIONS OF ARTIFICIAL EARTH SATELLITES AND THEIR COORDINATES

Nos of stations	A d d r e s s		Latitude	Longitude	Altitude in Meters
	for telegrams	for letters to, add			
001	Abakan, Pedinstitut	Oktyabrskaya 38	53°45'	6°06'	247
002	Alma-Ata, Gosuniversitet	Komsomolskaya 102	43 15	5 08	000
003	Abastumani, Observatoriya	Core Kanobili	41 45	2 51	165
004	Arkhangelak, Pedinstitut	Petrogradskiy pr.4	64 32	2 42	okolo 10 (about)
005	Astrakhan, Pedinstitut	Chaudana 1	46 21	3 12	-20
006	Achikhabad, Gosuniversitet	Pervomayskaya 133	37 57	3 53	240
007	Baku, Gosuniversitet	Kommunisticheskaya	40 22	3 19	140
008	Barnaul, Pedinstitut	Krupskoy 6	53 20	5 35	186
009	Batumi, Pedinstitut	Ninotchvili 35	43 40	2 46	
010	Elagrestobanak, Pedinstitut	Lemina 78	50 15	8 30	
011	Buhara, Pedinstitut	Stalina 2	39 46	4 18	222
012	Vilnius, Gosuniversitet	Tenuliondo 23-a	54 41	1 41	112
013	Vladivostok, Gosuniversitet	Kitayskaya 37/11	43 07	0 48	65
014	Vologda, Pedinstitut	Mayskovskogo 6	59 13	2 40	150
015	Yercoel, Gosuniversitet	Pr. Revoliutsii 24	51 39	2 37	156
016	Gorkii, Gosuniversitet	Sverdlova 37	56 16	2 56	163

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017	Dnepropetrovsk, Gosuniversitet	Chevshenskaya 59	49°26'	2°20"	1140
018	Erevan, Gosuniversitet	Ulitsa Aboviana 104	40 20	2 58	350
019	Irkutsk, Gosuniversitet	Vuzovskaya Nab. 20	52 17	6 57	468
020	Kazan, Gosuniversitet	Tchernykhvskogo 18	55 47	3 16	78
021	Karaganda, Pedinstitut	Kirova 16	49 49	4 54	515
022	Kryl-Orda, Pedinstitut	Sarkremnaya 38	44 47	4 22	
023	Kiev, Observatoriya	Observatornaya 3	50 27	2 02	184
024	Kichinev, Gosuniversitet	Pirogova 65	46 57	1 55	190
025	Komsomolsk n/Amure, Pedinstitut	Pionerskaya 16	50 33	9 08	
026	Krasnoyarsk, Pedinstitut	Stalina 83	56 01	6 11	143
027	Krasnodar, Pedinstitut	Sedina 4	45 02	2 36	
028	Krym, Astrofizicheskaya Observatoriya	care of Observatoriya	44 44	2 16	570
029	Kurgan, Pedinstitut	Sovetskaya 63	55 26	4 21	70
030	Leningrad, Universitet	V-178, Vasilievskii Island, 10-ia Liniya 33	59 57	2 01	40
031	Ivov, Gosuniversitet	Lomonosova 8	49 50	1 36	330
032	Minsk, Gosuniversitet	Universitetaki gorodok	53 51	1 51	105
033	Moskva, Gosuniversitet	V-234, Leningkie Gory	55 42	2 30	200
034	Nikolaev, Observatoriya	Markhlevskogo 1-4	46 58	2 08	54
035	Novosibirsk, Gosuniversitet	Krylova 24	55 02	5 32	180

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		Usp'38'	1928'	1958'
056	Ujgorod, Gosumversitet			100'
057	Ulan-Ude, Pedinstitut	51 49	7 10	547
058	Ufa, Pedinstitut	54 43	3 44	192.7
059	Trunse, Gosumversitet	42 53	4 58	780
060	Khabarovsk, Pedinstitut	48 29	9 00	120
061	Khar'kov, Gosumversitet	50 00	2 25	138.5
062	Tachardjou, Pedinstitut	39 05	4 14	190
063	Tchernovitz, Gosumversitet	48 17	1 44	240
064	Tohkalov, Pedinstitut	51 45	3 40	100.9
065	Tchita, Pedinstitut	52 03	7 34	98
066	Kazan, Engelgardskaja observatorija	55 50	3 15	98
067	Iujno-Sakhalinsk, Pedinstitut	46 57	9 31	100-150
068	Iakutsk, Gosumversitet	62 01	8 44	98

Abbreviated name of our country - SSO

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036	Odesa, Observatoria	Park Chevtchenko	46 29'	2 03'	54
037	Onsk, Pedinstitut	Internatsionalnaya 2	54 59	4 54	100
038	Pera, Gosuniversitet	Zainka, Genkalia 1	58 01	3 45	98
039	Patrozavodsk, Gosuniversitet	Prospokt Lenina 85	61 49	2 17	110
040	Leningrad 140, Observatoria	--	59 46	2 01	75
041	Riga, Gosuniversitet	Bulvar Rainia 19	56 57	1 36	18
042	Rostov na Donu, Gosuniversitet	Gorkogo 100	47 14	2 39	82
043	Klissen, Pedinstitut	Svobody 46	54 38	2 39	120
044	Samerkand, Gosuniversitet	Bulvar Gorkogo 15	39 40	4 28	700
045	Saratov, Gosuniversitet	Astrakhanakaya 83	51 32	3 04	72
046	Sverdlovsk, Gosuniversitet	Belinskogo 71a	56 45	4 03	230
047	Soclenok, Pedinstitut	Prjevalskogo 8	54 47	2 08	250
048	Stalinabad, Gosuniversitet	Lenina 17	38 33	4 35	820
049	Stalingrad, Pedinstitut	Akademičeskaya 2	48 42	3 00	9
050	Syctyvtar, Komi Pedinstitut	Kommunističeskaya 21	61 40	3 23	117
051	Taohaus, Pedinstitut	Pushkinskaya 20	41 50	4 00	88,8
052	Tartu, Gosuniversitet	Iulikovoli 18	58 21	1 47	76
053	Tachkent, Gosuniversitet	K. Maršala 32	41 21	4 36	440,8
054	Tdilis, Gosuniversitet	Universitetskaya 1	41 43	2 59	450
055	Toask, Gosuniversitet	Timiryasova 3	56 30	5 40	158