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# *Central Intelligence Bulletin*



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25 April 1967

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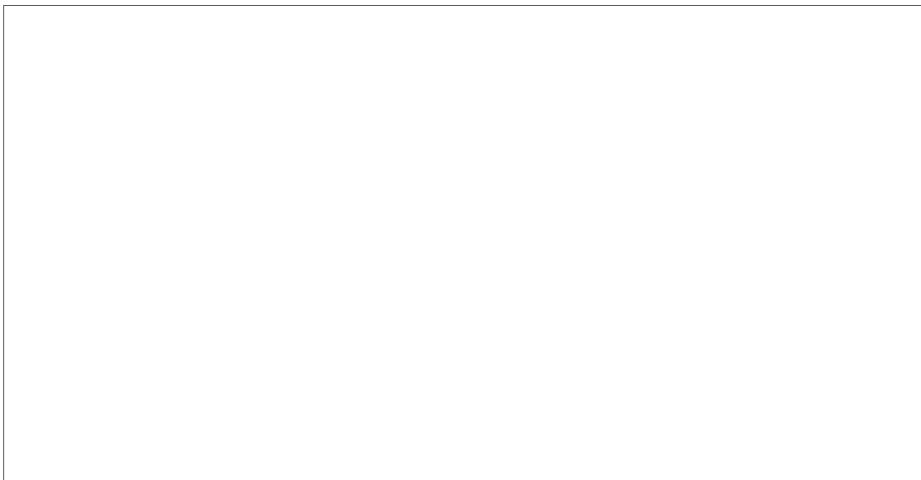
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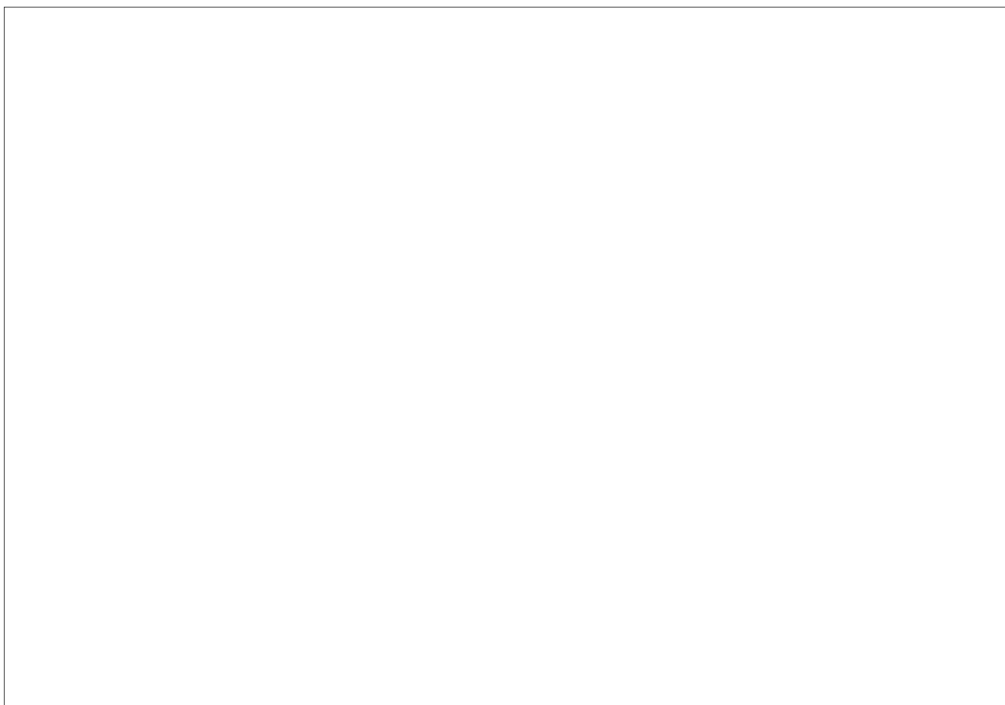
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USSR: Soyuz-1 crash could seriously set back Soviet  
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Soviet Cosmonaut Vladimir Komarov

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN Photo

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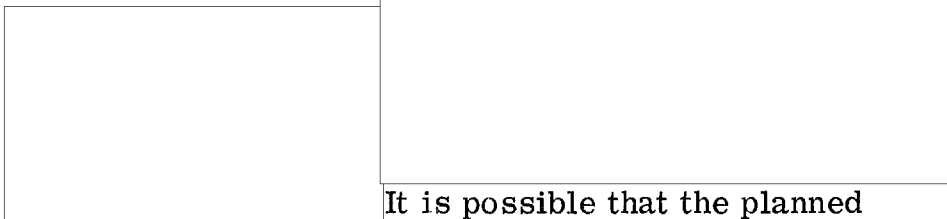
USSR: The ill-fated flight of Soyuz-1 could be a serious setback to the Soviet manned space program.

According to Moscow announcements, Colonel Komarov's spacecraft became fouled in the rigging of the main parachute at an altitude of four miles and plummeted to earth. Presumably he died on impact.

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Komarov's death dealt a blow to the USSR's prestige in the space field--the only major area in which the Soviets have made a credible claim to world primacy. More serious, however, was the succession of technical failures aboard the new spacecraft. Communications, stabilization, and power supply troubles plagued Soyuz-1 from the start.

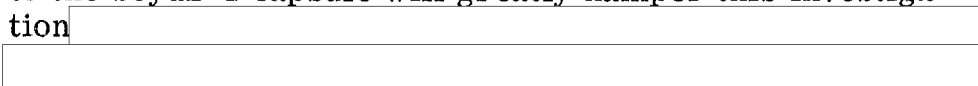
These difficulties probably forced a decision to cut the mission short.

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It is possible that the planned mission called for complex maneuvers, perhaps involving a second spacecraft.

A further indication that a longer mission was intended is that Komarov reportedly was to have spoken by radio to a press conference at the Soviet pavilion at Expo 67 yesterday afternoon. Soyuz-1 would have been within radio range of Montreal at that time if the flight had continued.

Further unmanned flights of Soyuz capsules are expected. The Soviets are unlikely to risk another manned shot until a detailed investigation has been conducted and technical shortcomings have been corrected. The damage to the Soyuz-1 capsule will greatly hamper this investigation.

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