

~~Top Secret~~ [redacted]

18 NOVEMBER 1977

(b)(3)

COSMOS 954 ORBIT CONTINUES TO DECAY

Cosmos 954, a radar ocean reconnaissance satellite (RORSAT), has an apparent [redacted] malfunction,

[redacted] If the Soviets are unable to boost the satellite's nuclear power supply into the usual 500-nm orbit, it appears that the spacecraft will reenter in the first quarter of 1978. In the event of an attitude control system malfunction, the satellite might decay in late December or January. These judgments refine, somewhat, those presented in our initial report. (See WIDR for 8 November 1977).

(b)(1)

(b)(3)

[redacted]

(b)(3)

(b)(1)

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If the attitude control system fails, the satellite will start tumbling and boost into the disposal orbit will no longer be possible. With the increased drag that would result, the satellite might decay in late December or January. Otherwise, it should remain in orbit two or three months longer.



(b)(3)

(b)(1)

(b)(3)