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DIRECTORATE OF
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WEEKLY REVIEW

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The *Weekly Review*, issued every Friday by the Office of Current Intelligence, reports and analyzes significant developments of the week through noon on Thursday. It frequently includes material coordinated with or prepared by the Office of Research and Reports and the Directorate of Science and Technology. Topics requiring more comprehensive treatment and therefore published separately as Special Reports are listed in the Contents pages of this publication.

WARNING

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws, US Code Title 18, Sections 793, 794, and 798.

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C O N T E N T S

(Information as of noon EST, 27 April 1967)

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THE USSR'S SOYUZ 1--TRAGEDY AND SETBACK

The ill-fated flight of Soyuz 1 is a severe blow to Soviet prestige and almost certainly a serious setback to the Soviet manned space program.

Soyuz 1 had seats for at least three cosmonauts but carried only one--Vladimir Komarov, pilot of the USSR's first multimanned spacecraft in October 1964. Technical problems involving several spacecraft systems plagued Soyuz 1 from the start and forced a decision to cut the mission short. The mission originally planned probably called for complex space maneuvers, perhaps involving a second spacecraft and a transfer of crew members.

According to Moscow announcements, the rigging of the main parachute became twisted at an altitude of four miles and the spacecraft plummeted to earth, killing the cosmonaut. His death delivered a sharp 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.

(b)(1) (b)(3) More serious, however, was the succession of technical failures aboard the spacecraft during the entire mission. Difficulties with the automatic stabilization system [redacted] Other problems arose with power supply, propulsion, and communications. [redacted] (b)(1) (b)(3)

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shortly before Soyuz 1 entered the atmosphere, Komarov reported, "The engine burned for 146 seconds. Separation occurred. Everything is okay." The Soviet statements that Komarov died during the landing itself, therefore, probably are correct.

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It is too soon to judge the full effect of this flight on the Soviet space program the destruction of the capsule, and the death of the cosmonaut almost certainly will delay the manned space effort. Corrective measures probably will have to await the findings of the high-level investigating commission that the Soviets have set up.

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There have been several indications that the Soyuz spacecraft is part of a program aimed at a manned circumlunar mission.

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a Russian regional radiobroadcast from Ulan Ude on 24 April, prior to the re-entry of Soyuz 1, informed listeners that "the new spacecraft is designed for much longer flights than the one to five days of the Vostok and Voskhod series and for missions not only in near-earth space but in near-lunar space."

To perform a circumlunar mission, the 12,000 to 15,000 pound Soyuz spacecraft would require a powerful propulsion stage to push it out of earth orbit onto a lunar trajectory. Cosmos 146 and 154, orbited on 10 March and 8 April by uprated versions of the USSR's largest space booster the SL-9, are believed to have tested such a propulsion stage for use with Soyuz-type spacecraft. Neither of these tests was fully successful.

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