

Russians are determined to win superiority in space



WASHINGTON—Russia is making a determined effort to outstrip the U.S. in the use of space for both military and scientific purposes.

A count by the government's Goddard Space Flight Center of all launches during 1971 is a clear indication of the Soviet's determination to gain superiority over this country in space.

During the past 12 months, the Russians launched 77 satellites in orbit compared to only 29 for the U.S. Averaging at times more than 10 a month, the Soviet satellite launchings totaled nearly three times the number of American space shots.

Even more ominous from a military point of view is the fact that most of the Russian satellites were launched into orbits close to the earth. This is the area of space where satellites with military application are usually tested and designed to operate.

In the field of military reconnaissance satellites, Defense Department officials estimate that for every spy satellite set aloft by the U.S. in 1971 the Russians launched two. The Soviets

can be made into a manned-missile interceptor or space bomber should the need arise.

In private briefings for members of Congress, Defense and NASA officials have stressed that the Russians are now spending double the amount on military space research and development than the U.S.

In addition to their satellite "killer," the Soviets have developed a new space weapon system known as FOBS, the "Fractional Orbiting Bombardment System." The FOBS consists of satellites, capable of carrying a nuclear warhead, which can be launched from Russia and hit the U.S. from any direction. The U.S. has no such system either in operation or under development.

Most startling space report has the Soviets preparing to use satellites in their "weather changing" experiments. In recent weeks, Iron Curtain scientists have reported to friends in Western Europe that the Russians' weather studies now deal with forces "almost beyond imagination."

also tested at least six "killer" satellites. These are designed to destroy satellites passing over or near the Soviet Union at heights ranging upward to 500 miles.

This increased Soviet space activity was one of the principle reasons for President Nixon's decision giving the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) the green light for the development of a \$5 billion space shuttle program.

Although the civilian and scientific applications of the space shuttle were stressed in President Nixon's announcement, the combination missile-aircraft like vehicle has a tremendous military-space potential.

With a few minor changes and additions, the space shuttle can be turned into a U.S. manned-reconnaissance and satellite inspection vehicle at very low extra cost. This military capability in turn would vastly improve U.S. defenses against any enemy attack via outer space.

Because of its capability to land like an ordinary aircraft, the space shuttle vehicle also

These scientists claim that the Soviets plan to use satellites in the creation of artificial clouds to shade large portions of the earth against the burning rays of the sun. Soviet scientists are reported to believe that the key to large scale weather control may be found by altering the balance between the amount of solar heat reaching the earth and that reflected back into space.

Although unable to confirm this specific report, American intelligence officials say privately that Russia is pursuing a number of weather modification projects as part of its military space application program.

Efforts of U.S. scientists to obtain information on these projects from their counterparts in Russia have gotten nowhere. All the Russians will say about the weather changing program is that it is under military control.

Soviet space scientists have hinted that their next big space spectacular will be the launching of a huge platform in space. The launching was scheduled for 1971 but delayed because of trouble with a new booster rocket.

• Jan '72. Russia determined to win superiority in space..weather modification is part of military space application and military (if Russia is doing it, you know the US is, and hiding it from the public.. They designed it!)

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