

~~TOP SECRET ZARF EAR~~

COMPARISON OF THE NUMBERS OF U.S. AND USSR RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITES

1. The following is a comparison of U.S. and USSR photographic and low orbiting ELINT reconnaissance programs, showing the number of launches in 1973, satellites currently active and total in-orbit mission days of photographic reconnaissance satellites in 1973.

	Launched in 1973		Currently Active	
	<u>US</u>	<u>USSR</u>	<u>US</u>	<u>USSR</u>
High Resolution Photographic	3	25	1	1
In-orbit Days (1973)	189	275		
Medium Resolution Photographic	4	9	0	0
In-orbit Days (1973)	89	103		
Low Orbiting ELINT	1	5*	6	6

* The USSR medium resolution photographic satellites also have an ancillary ELINT payload not included in the above total.

R.J.C. & Al Hoover

2.

[Redacted]

[Redacted]

There is no Soviet satellite with a mission known to be comparable with the above programs. The mission of COSMOS 606, which was placed in a semi-synchronous orbit in November 1973, however, is unknown. It is possible that COSMOS 606 has either a reconnaissance or strategic early warning mission.

3. The USSR is also pursuing an orbital reconnaissance program associated with the manned space program. The first satellite in the program was SALYUT-II which was launched on 3 April 1973 but which malfunctioned 11 days after entering orbit. The launching of a similar space station is probably planned for mid to late May 1974.

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~~TOP SECRET~~-41785-74
BYE

The Honorable Albert Hall
Assistant Secretary of Defense (Intelligence)
The Pentagon
Washington, D.C. 20301

Dear Dr. Hall,

The question of number of Soviet Satellite reconnaissance vehicles vs. U.S. vehicles raised by Senator McClellan during the briefings recently was only generally answered to the effect that the Soviet number was larger than the U.S. In case the subject comes up again, I've attached for your information some statistics for the year 1973.

[s] B. K. Duffham

BENSON K. BUFFHAM
Acting Director

cc: Director, NRO (Mr. Plummer) ←

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