

DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE  
WASHINGTON

*Security Incident*  
*General*

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY

*31 MAY 1966*

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE

SUBJECT: Security Incident - Report of Impact of Space  
Debris in Rio Negro Brazil

On 26 May 1966 this office became aware of space debris having impacted on 6 May 1966 in the Rio Negro district of Brazil near the Parana Santa Catarina border approximately 380 miles southwest of Rio de Janeiro (See attached State Dept telegram 2640 from Rio de Janeiro, 2341 from Curitiba, and UPI dispatch #79 of 26 May. It is understood that the incident was also reported in a Reuters May 26 dispatch)

This incident was first correlated with data related to Corona/J mission #1032 which failed to achieve orbit on 6 May. However, it was determined to have had no possible association inasmuch as the latter was known to have impacted at approximately 25:50 N, 119.20 W at a point approximately 3000 fathoms deep in the Pacific Ocean.

It was next correlated with a project TIP report related to a COSMOS 117 Rocket body re-entry which occurred on 6 May at 25°S, 80°E (plus or minus 10 minutes in time) with trajectory prior to decay from Quito, Ecuador to Cordoba, Argentina to impact point in the Indian Ocean. It was determined to be possibly identical.

Reported "specs" "NASA-140 3-6 Phillips" and description of objects as reported were provided to SAFSP for check with space contractors. The reportings provided no evidence to identify the debris. A "spec" of NAS-40 was reported to be associated with a hinge of extruded alloy related to aircraft access doors and a "spec" of NAS 1400 was reported to be associated with a NASA contract at G. E. Corporation.

It is understood that NASA had requested State Department to direct U. S. Embassy Brazil to attempt to obtain possession of the debris and that they would furnish mailing instructions. Through DIA, a message was sent to Air Attache Rio de Janeiro requesting that he report on the incident through MOONDUST.

No further information was available through 31 May.

*L. M. Maza*  
Louis F. Maza  
Assistant for Security

Control No. 23410

Received 26<sup>th</sup> May dated from Curitiba 25 May.

1. Local press reports that on May 6 following objects fell from space in Rio Negro district on Parana Santa Catarina border.
2. Dented piece of light weight metal 50 x 30 centimeters.
3. Oval shaped metal object 40 x 20 centimeters inscribed NASA-140  
3-6 Phillips.
4. Black bee hive shaped object 10 x 12 centimeters believed part of frame.
5. Four fragile wires.
6. Witnesses said object descended in flames and exploded before reaching ground.
7. Area Brazilian Air Force Commander investigated and will inform Consulate.

S//McLain

UNCLAS

MAY 21 11 12 02

MAY 66

UNCLAS

M UNCLAS E F T O  
DTG R 240151Z ORIG NBR 2/104 RADAY

- BT  
UNCLAS E F T O FROM NCOC-SSC 00392 MAY 66.  
WASH DC ATTN: PROJECT EIP, FTD ATTN: TDAOS AND TDEW.  
SAO ATTN: MR HANLON AND MR HIRST, DEF OF STATE ATTN:  
SIS ROOM 6945.
1. 2164/1966-37B/COSMOS 117/USSR ROCKET BODY.
  2. 06 MAY 1966.
  3. REV 236 ASCENDING/21 MAY 1966 0237Z.
  4. 25 DEG SOUTH/ 80 DEG EAST.
  5. PLUS OR MINUS 10 MIN.
  6. TRAJECTORY PRIOR TO DECAY WAS FROM QUITO ECUADOR TO

PAGE 2 RUBCAL 2 UNCLAS E F T O  
CORDOBA ARGENTINA TO IMPACT POINT IN THE INDIAN OCEAN.  
7. THE PREVIOUS MESSAGE WAS IN ERROR IN THE TRAJECTORY  
PRIOR TO DECAY, THIS IS THE FINAL MESSAGE ON THIS  
OBJECT.  
BT

1. Mazza
2. alt
3. Spader
4. Adm

1. Mr. Mazza

UNCLAS

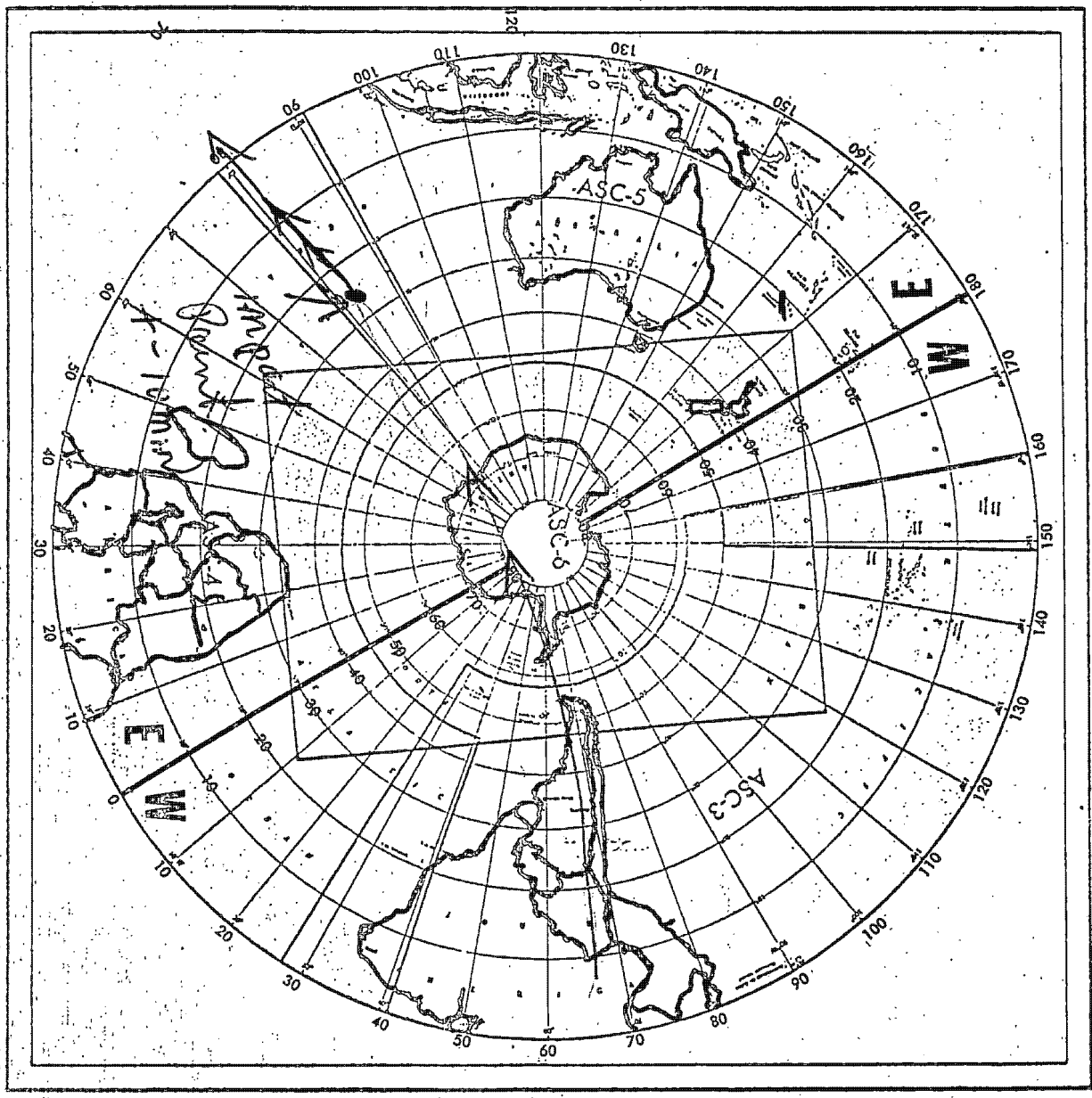
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INDEX NO. 2  
Code ASC

**SOUTH**

Published Charts

USAF AEROSPACE PLANNING CHARTS



INDEX NO. 2  
Code ASC

*Cosmos 117*

CURRENT AS OF 1 MAY 1

INFO: J3-1 J5-2 ASD/ISA-9 SAMAA-1 NMCC-1 DTA-15 CSA-1  
CSAF-1 CNO-10 CMC-2 SECDEF-7 SACSA-4 ASD/PA-1 DDRE-1  
ARPA-1 IADB-1 FILE-1 (59)ML/CL

14016

CALL 53337  
FOR NMCC/MC  
SERVICE

88-81  
Action

~~UNCLASSIFIED~~

Control: 28033

Rec'd: May 31, 1966  
4:41 PM

601 0438Z

SCI

FROM: Curitiba

Info

G

ARA

ACTION: Secstate 9

INR

Rio De Janeiro Unnumbered

CIA

Sao Paulo Unnumbered

NSA

DOD

DATE: May 31

RSR

PASS NASA.

Reference: DEPTTEL 11 and CONTELS 7 and 8.

1. All fragments recovered now at Cnae Sao Jose Dos Campos.  
Understand Embassy Rio De Janeiro will obtain and transmit.

2. Consulate unable recheck identification.

2 (1966)  
02 25  
CON TIME  
Brazil  
MOON DUST  
31 MAY

MCLAIN

PB/14

NOTE: PASSED NASA 5/31, 5:00 PM.

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INFO: J3-1 J5-2 ASD/ISA-9 SAMAA-1 NMCC-1 DIA-1F CSA-1  
CSAF-1 CNO-10 CMC-2 SECDEF-7 SACS-4 ASD/PA-1 DDRE-1  
ARPA-1 IADB-1 FILE-1 (59) GDT/HCH

9 8 7 7

88-82

Action

UNCLASSIFIED

1966 MAY 28 03

Control:  
Recd:

2554

May 27, 1966

1:59 p.m. 5 28 03 51

CALL 5333  
FOR NMCC/MC  
SERVICE

SCI

Info

FROM: Curitiba

DIAAP-2 (ISIC)

G

ACTION: Secstate 8

ARA

Rio de Janeiro Unnumbered

P

Sao Paulo Unnumbered

US IA

NSC

DATE: May 27

INR

CIA

NSA

PASS NASA

DOD

WHB

Reference: CONTEL 7.

*Brazil  
MOON DUST  
27 May*

RSR

1. Remnants of presumed space vehicle that fell in Rio Negro District sent today to Brazilian Air Force Technical Center at Sao Jose Dos Campos Sao Paulo.

MCLAIN

NAR/10

Note: Passed NASA 3:26pm, 5/27/66

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RGZ

CLR 7:20P

RB

GZSATELLITE

RIO DE JANEIRO, BRAZIL, MAY 25 (REUTERS)-THE U.S. EMBASSY HERE HAS BEEN INFORMED THAT WHAT WAS CLAIMED TO BE THE REMAINS OF AN AMERICAN SATELLITE HAS BEEN FOUND IN BRAZIL.

AN EMBASSY SPOKESMAN SAID HE WAS STILL AWAITING OFFICIAL CONFIRMATION OF THE REPORTS, "BUT IF THE BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT TURNS IT OVER TO US WE WILL INVESTIGATE AND MAKE A REPORT TO THEM."

IT WAS UNKNOWN WHEN THE SATELLITE SUPPOSEDLY FELL.  
HV 7:47P

**Page Denied**