

1. POSSIBLE PREPARATIONS FOR SOVIET
SATELLITE/ICBM FLIGHT TEST

Comment on:



the Soviet KRUG direction-finding complex indicate that tracking activities, possibly with a balloon for a target, previously associated with prefiring preparations at the Tyura Tam missile test range were tried on 13 November. A resumption of this activity was scheduled for about 0509Z on 14 November.

Similar KRUG tracking activities with balloon targets were noted a few hours prior to the launching of the first two earth satellites. The balloons apparently are used for determining upper air data.

The local Tyura Tam range net began a period of practice 4- and 5-hour count-downs less than 46 hours after the launching of sputnik II on 3 November. This practice has been conducted daily through 10 November and may be continuing. On three of these days, the direct link between Tyura Tam and Klyuchi as well as the local Klyuchi net were also active, suggesting an impending operation.

Such extensive practice operations have not been observed before on this range, suggesting that the test event for which this practice is being conducted is of an important and possibly advanced nature in the earth-satellite vehicle and/or ICBM fields. This event may occur in the near future, possibly within two or three days.

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