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DIA SPECIAL Intelligence Summary

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INTELLIGENCE SUMMARY

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SPECIAL
DIA Intelligence Summary
New Soviet COSMOS Satellite

24 September 1964

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New Soviet COSMOS Satellite

COSMOS 46 (Sputnik 77) was orbited from Tyuratam at 1205Z on 24 September.

This new satellite, which appears similar to others in the COSMOS photographic reconnaissance series, was launched one week following the COSMOS 45 orbital mission of 13-18 September.

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COSMOS 46 is the 10th satellite launched during the April through October period when there are optimum conditions for photographic missions over the Northern Hemisphere; it is the third using a 51-degree inclination which provides the best coverage of the US.

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COSMOS 46 was placed in a low earth orbit with the following characteristics: apogee, 146.3 nautical miles; perigee, 115.2 nautical miles; period, 89.2 minutes; and inclination, 51.22 degrees.

Deorbit and recovery of COSMOS 46 is expected. All photographic satellites launched this year have been recovered after eight days with the exception of COSMOS 45 which was deorbited on 18 September after five days in orbit. (~~TOP SECRET DINAR~~)