

COSMOGRAM-12

OCT 29, 1984

236 d 22h 50m - GREAT!

FINALLY GOT SMART ENOUGH TO REQUEST RADAR CROSS SECTION OF LONG-LIVED COSMOS-1552. THE ANSWER: 53 SQUARE METERS! THAT IS SALYUT-SIZED, SEVERAL TIMES BIGGER THAN A SOYUZ-T. MAYBE I OUGHT TO MAKE SOME VISUAL OBSERVATIONS. TODAY IS ITS 168TH DAY. MIL SALYUT?

COSMOS-1603 PUZZLE PIECES: THE PAYLOAD RCS IS 19 M^2 , THE ROCKET BODY (OBJ# ---334) IS 47 M^2 , ---335 IS FRAGMENT (1.17 M^2), ---336 IS ANOTHER ROCKET BODY WHICH DECAYED BEFORE GOOD RCS DATA WAS OBTAINED, ---338 ~~WAS~~ IS DEBRIS (1.2 M^2 RCS). A DUMMY PAYLOAD WITH NEW UPPER STAGE TEST?

SALYUT-1 FOOTNOTE: AN ARTICLE ON THE HISTORY OF SPACE BOTANICAL EXPERIMENTS CONFIRMS THAT SOYUZ-10 WAS SUPPOSED TO STAY ABOARD SALYUT FOR SEVERAL WEEKS BUT THE LINKUP FAILED - IN CASE ANYBODY HAD ANY DOUBT. BUT THIS IS THE FIRST EXPLICIT DECLARATION I'VE SEEN.

JANE'S SPACECRAFT - THE BOOK DID NOT MAKE THE RYMIN/POPOV BLOB OF WATER MISTAKE (SOME WIRE SERVICE REPORTER DID), BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF OTHER SERIOUS FACTUAL ERRORS SPRINKLED THROUGH THE TEXT. ALL IN ALL, A GREAT DISAPPOINTMENT.

IN JULY, APOLLO-SOYUZ COSMONAUTS PUBLISHED "OPEN LETTER" TO THEIR ASTRONAUT COLLEAGUES, APPEALING FOR STOP TO AMERICAN MILITARIZATION OF SPACE. LAST WEEK, TRAILING IN POLLS IN RACE FOR U.S. SENATE IN MICHIGAN, JACK LOUSMA (BACKUP DMP) PUBLISHED REPLY, CHASTISING RUSSIANS FOR LETTING THEMSELVES BE EXPLOITED FOR DECEPTIVE PROPAGANDA. ANYBODY WANT COPIES.

BABY STILL DUE ON NOVEMBER 12.



SOVIETS REVISE "SUMMER TIME" TO COINCIDE WITH EUROPEAN PRACTICE - BEGINNING LAST SUNDAY IN SEPTEMBER, 1984, SWITCH WILL BE MADE SAME DAY AS IS IN REST OF EUROPE.