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Classification:	UNCLASSIFIED	Status:	[STAT]
Document Date:	17 Mar 91	Category:	[CAT]
Report Type:	JPRS Report	Report Date:	
Report Number:	JPRS-TEN-91-007	UDC Number:	

Headline: Arkhangelsk To Undergo Satellite Survey

Source Line: LD1703115391 Moscow All-Union Radio Mayak Network in Russian 0640 GMT 17 Mar 91

FULL TEXT OF ARTICLE:

1. [Text] [Announcer] The Cosmodrome and the Far North is the subject of a report by our correspondent, Valentin Bogomolov.

2. [Bogomolov] On clear, cloudless nights the citizens of Arkhangelsk sometimes see rockets rising into the sky above the city. Occasionally they are mistaken for UFOs but, at all events, everybody here knows that the world's busiest space launch site, Plesetsk, lies right next door to Arkhangelsk. But what benefit do Arkhangelsk Oblast and the Far North, which lie under the rockets' flight path, derive from the Cosmodrome? This is the question we put to Col. Grin, one of its commanders

3. [Begin recording] [Grin] Recently we launched the Informator spacecraft. This is the first experiment in a series intended to test ways of maintaining communications with remote regions of the country, with settlements, with geological prospecting teams, with those regions and installations within the country where the use of traditional means of communication is inappropriate and economically unviable.

4. Recently, at the end of December, we signed an agreement on the launch of the Resurs spacecraft, which is designed to survey the earth's mineral resources and carry out ecological monitoring. In other words, it will carry out a comprehensive survey of Arkhangelsk Oblast in the interests of the national economy. It will study the location of mineral resources, the use of timber resources, and the ecological situation in Arkhangelsk Oblast.

5. [Bogomolov] I know that geologists are obliged to acquire satellite charts from the Americans. Can't they see your space photographs?

6. [Grin] Of course they can. Furthermore, as a deputy in the oblast soviet, I took part in this work. Maps compiled from satellite measurements, including ones of other oblasts of the Soviet Union, were displayed at a session of the oblast soviet. Some of these measurements were taken during orbits over oblasts which neighbor

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Arkhangelsk Oblast.

7. [Bogomolov] Here is what Gen. Oleynik, the commander of the Cosmodrome, had to say about the benefit which Arkhangelsk Oblast derives from the Cosmodrome.

8. [Begin recording] [Oleynik] The program can be adjusted to find out how man's activity is affecting the environment in Arkhangelsk Oblast, where the ecological situation has deteriorated lately. But I do not know the activities of the Cosmodrome for this. Rather it is the fault of industrial enterprises located in Arkhangelsk Oblast. Our spacecraft will be able to assess the extent of air and water pollution, the state of forestry plantations, and the state of the soil. We will also be able to measure the impact of human activities in our region on the ozone layer.

9. [Bogomolov] But isn't this very expensive? Every launch costs many millions of rubles.

10. [Oleynik] The life of man and the future of the region are more important than the money we plan to spend on this research. [end recording]

11. [Announcer] I wholly agree with that last remark. I remind you that the life of man is more precious than the money spent on scientific research, especially as the next generation, in other words our children, is at stake. One hopes that our small loved ones will be able to eat clean food, swim in clean rivers, and breathe clean air. If they do, maybe they will be morally better than us. One very much hopes so.

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