

The President's Daily Brief

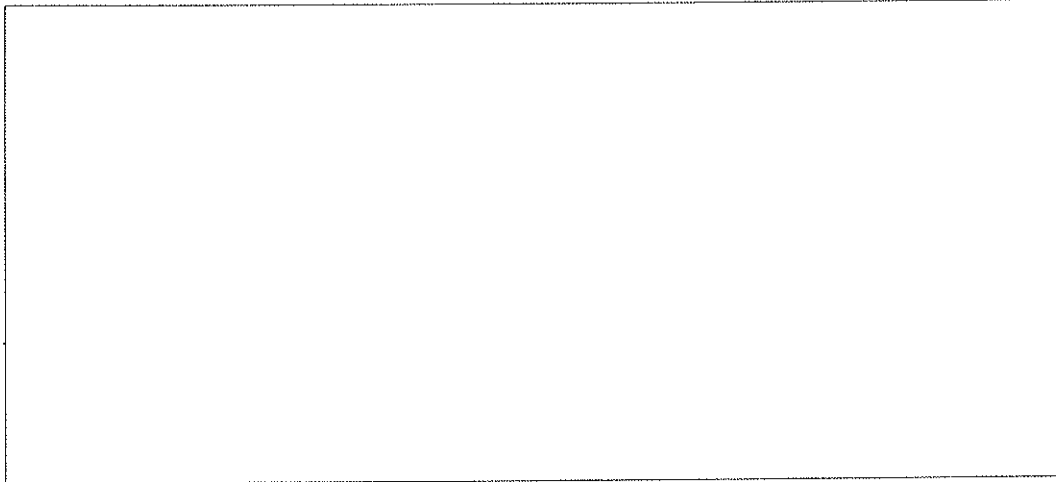
~~Top Secret~~ 28 November 1968



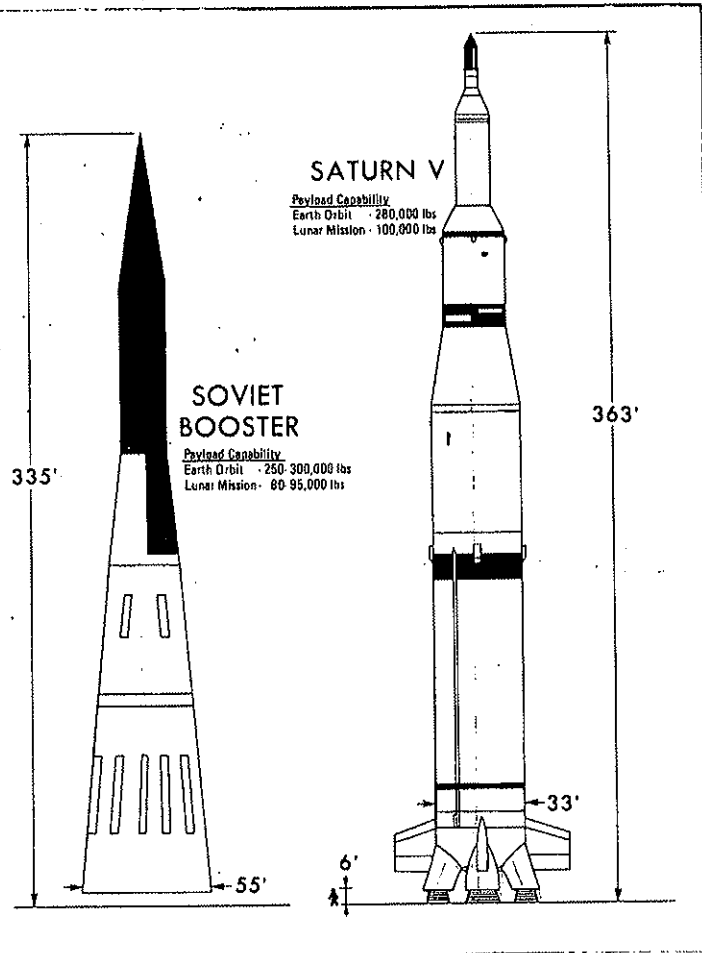
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New Soviet Booster Nears First Flight Test

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Comparison of Soviet booster with US Saturn V



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3. Panama

Followers of ousted President Arnulfo Arias are intent on setting up a guerrilla movement in the mountains of western Panama. For some days they have been filtering in from Costa Rica and now, together with local recruits, they may number upwards of 200.

By most standards this is small stuff. Remote western Panama, however, is Arias' home territory and a stronghold of popular antimilitary sentiment. It is just possible that this may be the beginning of a long-term problem of some magnitude for the colonels in Panama City.

Arias and his entourage in the US are lobbying hard from Washington's Watergate Hotel. Senators Thurmond, Tower, Kennedy, and Smathers have so far been among those approached. Arias seems particularly anxious to get his views across to people close to President-elect Nixon.

One of Arias' talking points is that the colonels who threw him out are Communist influenced. They are surely no great democrats, but we have no evidence that they have put any Communists into key positions.

4. Soviet Union

Work is proceeding at the Soviet moon port at Tyuratam toward the first flight test of the new space booster. The huge booster has been photographed by satellite on its launch pad three times since August. A recent satellite mission, however, showed that it has been returned to the nearby assembly and checkout building. It is difficult to say when the first flight test will take place---it still could be several months away.