

SIER
PARTMENT
MINISTÈRE

DG-085-7-2 **DDIV**
COSMOS - 954

SECRET

"D" Div. - Winnipeg

D10067 VLM Vol. 1
DG-085-7-2

DG-085-7-2

FILE
DOSSIER
DEPARTMENT
MINISTÈRE

VOLUME

COSMOS - 954

SUBJECT
SUJET

RCMP
6255
SUBJECT:

DATE

CHARGED OUT
OR
TRANSFERRED

R. C. M. P.
ARCHIVES UNIT
LE GROUPE DES
ARCHIVES DE LA
G. R. C.

CONFIDENTIAL
CONFIDENTIAL
MATERIAL HISTORIQUE

CROSS REFERENCE
RENVOIS

DIV. _____

DET. _____

HQ "HQ" DIV - Ottawa ("P" VO. rectorate
DG H-QP-485-35 Records)

D10067 VLM Vol. 1
DG-085-7-2

COSMOS 954



9125

OPERATION MORNINGLIGHT
GREAT SLAVE LAKE, NORTHWEST TERRITORIES
1978/01/24

HQ - OTTAWA VRS
HQ-485-35
D-WINNIPEG
DG-085-7-2
G - YELLOWKNIFE
78-G-000-2
G - YELLOWKNIFE DET
78-427

Information received through the Intelligence Advisory Committee of the federal government revealed COSMOS 954, a Soviet Radar Ocean Reconnaissance Satellite (RORSAT) with a small nuclear power source was out of ground control. On 1978/01/06, the satellite began tumbling towards earth. It was to re-enter the earth's atmosphere but at that time the location was unknown. On 1978/01/24, the satellite survived re-entry and crashed near Great Slave Lake, NWT. The RCMP's presence was requested for guarding some of the debris as well as performing any police duties which may have arisen. When the clean-up was completed, the Department of External Affairs requested the RCMP's input into the preparation of a claim against the USSR for compensation for damage incurred by Canada in the search and recovery of the radioactive parts of the satellite. The cost of the clean-up was over \$14,000,000.00 of which Canada requested just over \$6,000,000.00 compensation.

6947.AHS

0008



RECORDS MANAGEMENT — C.I.B. CLASSIFICATION AND CHECK SHEET
GESTION DES DOSSIERS — FEUILLE DE CLASSEMENT ET DE CONTRÔLE — E.C.

BIN	
BD	

CLASSIFIER	CLASSIFICATEUR
INITIALS — INITIALES	DATE
<i>EJW</i>	82-11-12
FILE No — N° DU DOSSIER	

Name check only

NAME — NOM

COSMOS —

(DG-085-7-2)

(Radioactive Material — Russian Satellite)

ADDRESSES — ADRESSES

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH — DATE ET LIEU DE NAISSANCE	F.P.S.	CHECKED — VÉRIFIÉ	
		INITIALS — INITIALES	DATE

FILE REFERENCES — DOSSIERS À CONSULTER	FILE REFERENCES — DOSSIERS À CONSULTER
<p>NO RECORD</p> <p>82-11-15</p> <p>DIR. "P" DIR. PAS DE DOSSIER</p>	<p>NO. 15 1982</p> <p>0007</p>

RCMP GRC

RECORDS MANAGEMENT — C.I.B. CLASSIFICATION AND CHECK SHEET
GESTION DES DOSSIERS — FEUILLE DE CLASSEMENT ET DE CONTRÔLE — E.C.

BIN
BD

CLASSIFIER		CLASSIFICATEUR
INITIALS — INITIALES	DATE	
FILE No — N° DU DOSSIER		

Name check only

NAME — NOM *COSMOS?*

(DG-085-7-2)

(Radioactive Material — Russian Satellite)

No Record in Ops. Files

Have requested info from "P" Directorate

(82-11-12)

ADDRESSES — ADRESSES

DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH — DATE ET LIEU DE NAISSANCE

F.P.S.

CHECKED — VÉRIFIÉ

INITIALS — INITIALES

DATE

FILE REFERENCES — DOSSIERS À CONSULTER

FILE REFERENCES — DOSSIERS À CONSULTER

0006



Government of Canada
Gouvernement du Canada

MEMORANDUM

NOTE DE SERVICE

TO
À

MEMORANDUM FOR FILE.

FROM
DE

NCO I/C SECURITY SYSTEMS SECTION.

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SÉCURITÉ
OUR FILE - N/RÉFÉRENCE DG 085-7-2
YOUR FILE - V/RÉFÉRENCE
DATE 6 February, 1978

SUBJECT
OBJET


Radioactive Material - Russian Satellite.



On the 5th of FEB 1978 at 1:45 p.m. Mr. Bill WILLIS telephoned me at my residence to advise that the radioactive piece from the Russian satellite that came down over northern Canada was arriving on Air Canada Flight #282 at 4:50 p.m. at the Winnipeg International Airport. He also stated that the appropriate people from the Whiteshell Atomic Energy would be there to receive it and to make sure there is no hazard. They would be transporting it to the Whiteshell Nuclear Atomic Energy Plant for examination.

2. At 1:50 p.m. I advised the Winnipeg International Airport Detachment and S/Cst. Donnalyn URSCHAPZ received the message. I requested that she notify the appropriate people and to keep an eye on the situation. She was requested to keep this low key so as not to create any apprehension on the part of the public.

3. At 2:00 p.m. Winnipeg Detachment was notified and Cst. DALEY took the message. I requested that he notify Pinawa Detachment so that they would be aware of what is transpiring. I advised him that no action was required on their part and that the above information was merely passed on to them so that they could be informed in the event they did receive a call. He was also requested to treat this discreetly to avoid attracting unnecessary attention to the transportation of this material.

4. At 8:30 a.m. on the 6th FEB 1978 Mr. Bill WILLIS contacted this office advising that the parcel arrived and everything was "all clear". He was advised of this information by the Whiteshell Nuclear Atomic Energy Plant at approximately 8:00 p.m. on the 5 FEB 1978.


H. Eckert, S/Sgt.,
N.C.O. i/c Security Systems Section.

0005

001390

OUTGOING MESSAGES

MESSAGES SORTANTS

• INSTRUCTIONS ON REVERSE

• DIRECTIVES AU VERSO

D 085-7-2

Time of Receipt - Heure de réception	File No. - N° de dossier	Drafter's Name - Nom du rédacteur S/SGT. H. ECKERT	Time of Dispatch - Heure d'envoi
	Br. or Section - Sous-direction ou section SECURITY SYSTEMS	Phone No. - N° de téléphone D 085-7-2	
Precedence for Action Addresses Priorité pour suite à donner PRIORITY	Precedence for Infor. Addresses Priorité pour renseignements PRIORITY	Date 24 JAN 78	Security, CLASSIFICATION sécuritaire SECRET
FROM DE "D" DIV.			
TO A O.C.'S BRANDON, DAUPHIN, THOMPSON, WINNIPEG SUB/DIVISIONS			
INFO. POUR RENSEIGNEMENTS			

ORIGINATORS MESSAGE NO. **SSS1/4** N° DU MESSAGE ORIGINAL

RE REPORTING OF U.F.O.'S OR FALL-OUT.

ANY REPORTED SIGHTINGS OR SUGGESTIONS OF FALL-OUT IS TO BE REPORTED

DIRECT TO THE DIVISION HEADQUARTER'S, ATTENTION OF S/SGT. H. ECKERT.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT TO GO BEYOND TELECOMNS. PERSONNEL.

THAT IS, THERE IS TO BE NO SOLICITATION FOR SUCH INFORMATION, BUT JUST

MERELY REPORT WHAT YOU MAY RECEIVE. FOR REPORTING U.F.O.'S PLEASE

REFER TO OPS. MAN. 1.3.E.22.a. THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SELF-CANCELLING

AS OF 25 JAN 78.

REPORTING OF FALL-OUT IS TO BE REPORTED

ATTENTION OF S/SGT. H. ECKERT.

THE CONTENTS OF THIS MESSAGE IS NOT TO GO BEYOND TELECOMNS. PERSONNEL.

THAT IS, THERE IS TO BE NO SOLICITATION FOR SUCH INFORMATION, BUT JUST

MERELY REPORT WHAT YOU MAY RECEIVE. FOR REPORTING U.F.O.'S PLEASE

REFER TO OPS. MAN. 1.3.E.22.a. THIS MESSAGE WILL BE SELF-CANCELLING

AS OF 25 JAN 78.

PA

Reams Advised

24/1/78
PA/Gin

Signature of person releasing message de l'expéditeur W.G. BUCHANAN, C/Supt., CIB/O	Insp., D.F. McLay for	Time Released (time of signature) Heure d'expédition (heure de la signature)
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PRIORITY

JAN 24 8 45 AM '78

DC 085-7-2

~~SECRET~~

8-21 PRIORITY OTT JAN 24/78 T O P S E C R E T

A B C D E-D1 E-D2 F G H J K L M O DIVS

DCI/1/5

FURTHER TO TELEX DCI/1/4 AND DCI/35/FPB WE ARE NOW ADVISED THAT PORTIONS OF THIS SATELLITE SURVIVED RE-ENTRY AND LANDED APPROXIMATELY 6:55 A.M. THIS DATE NEAR GREAT SLAVE LAKE, N.W.T. CANADAIN MILITARY AND AECL HAVE MATTERS IN HAND WITH ASSISTANCE BEING RENDERED IF NECESSARY BY C.O. "G" DIVISION. DETAILS ARE STILL TOP SECRET AND THIRD PARTY RULE STILL APPLIES. ANY MEDIA ENQUIRIES ARE TO BE REFERRED TO LT. COL. CHAMPAGNE AT 992-6150 OTTAWA.

COMMR OTT

ACK PSE ***

OTT DE D DIV WP ACK MSG TKS

WARNING

THIS IS A
CLASSIFIED
CYPHER MESSAGE

All replies or references to it **MUST** bear the security classification **stamped hereon**, unless downgraded by proper authority.

YOUR TELEPHONE IS NOT SECURE

The content or any portion of this message irrespective of classification is **NOT** to be discussed over the telephone.

Motus
CO +

c130 advised
John
note 1/24
24/1/78

0003

001392

PRIORITY

~~SECRET~~

JAN 23 7 44 PM '78

53-65 PRIORITY OTT1 JAN23/78 ~~SECRET~~

A B C D E-1 E-2 F G H J K L M O DIVISIONS

DCI/35/FPB

FURTHER TO TELEX DCI/1/4. THIRD PARTY RULE IN FORCE WITH RESPECT TO ALL INFORMATION REGARDING THIS MATTER THEREFORE REGIONAL DIRECTORS EMERGENCY PLANNING CANADA CANNOT/NOT BRIEF PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS AT THIS TIME. (INFO ONLY FOR THOSE AUTHORITIES ALREADY ADVISED). SHOULD YOU RECEIVE QUERIES REFER ALL TO DND W.C. OTTAWA (LT. COL. E.D. CHAMPAGNE). LATEST INFO ON SATELLITE INDICATES THERE IS ONE IN EIGHT CHANCE IT WILL ENTER ATMOSPHERE OVER CANADA AND 98 PERCENT PROBABILITY IT WILL TOTALLY BURN UP BEFORE IMPACT. BEST ESTIMATE OF AREA ORBITTED DURING TIME OF POSSIBLE ENTRY COVERS ARC TOUCHING VANCOUVER, WHITEHORSE, EASTERN COAST OF LABRADOR AND NEWFOUNDLAND WITH TIME OF ENTRY BETWEEN 0300 HRS AND 1300 HRS EST. 24 JAN 78.

COMMR OTT

PLSE ACK MSG*

D DIV WPG ACKS

SAY AGN PLSE GARBLED

D DIV WPG ACKS

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Mr. Bill Billie - EPC
advised re: Cosmos 974
fix earths 1x 62° 9' N 112° W

24 Jan 78 0x 5:30 10:55 am Wpg. time. Press release will be made
offer (release) from External Affairs Canada -
(clearance)

0002

001393

PRIORITY ~~SECRET~~

JAN 23 6 09 PM '78

44-52 PRIORITY OTT1 JAN23/78 ~~SECRET~~

A D E-1 E-2 F G K M DIVISIONS

DCI/1/4

FOLLOWING INFORMATION RECEIVED THROUGH THE INTELLIGENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE OF THE FEDERAL GOVT. QUOTE. COSMOS 954, A SOVIET RADAR OCEAN RECONNAISSANCE SATELLITE (RORSAT) WITH A SMALL NUCLEAR POWER SOURCE, HAS APPARENTLY BEEN OUT OF GROUND CONTROL AND IN A DECAYING ORBIT SINCE 29 OCTOBER 1977 (WIR 44/77). ON 6 JANUARY 1978, THE SATELLITE BEGAN TUMBLING AND ITS RATE OF DECAY INCREASED. AS IT IS NOW ESTIMATED THAT THE SATELLITE WILL RE-ENTER THE EARTH'S ATMOSPHERE ABOUT 24 JANUARY 1978, BUT THE LOCATION OR RE-ENTRY CANNOT BE PREDICTED WITH ANY ACCURACY UNTIL ONE OR TWO DAYS BEFORE RE-ENTRY AND THEN WITHOUT ANY PRECISION. THERE HAS BEEN NO SOVIET ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS MALFUNCTION. (AT THE END OF THEIR USEFUL LIFE, RORSAT'S ARE USUALLY BOOSTED INTO A HIGH ORBIT WHICH DELAYS RE-ENTRY INDEFINITELY). SOME PORTIONS OF THE SATELLITE, INCLUDING PARTS OF THE NUCLEAR POWER PACKAGE MAY SURVIVE RE-ENTRY AND IMPACT ON THE GROUND. THERE IS NO DANGER OF A NUCLEAR EXPLOSION BUT THERE MAY BE A MINOR LOCAL HEALTH HAZARD DUE TO DISPERSAL OF RADIOACTIVE MATERIAL BY IMPACT. THE CHANCE OF IMPACT IN A POPULATED AREA IS REMOTE BUT IF IT OCCURS OUTSIDE THE USSR IT COULD CAUSE THE SOVIET UNION CONSIDERABLE POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT. UNQUOTE. I.A.C. HAVE TAKEN THE FOLLOWING ACTION QUOTE (A) AGREED THAT THE IMMEDIATE REACTION TO ANY IMPACT ON CANADIAN TERRITORY WOULD BE TO EVACUATE AND CORDON OFF THE AREA OF RISK FROM RADIATION; AND THAT THE OPERATION WOULD BE SIMILAR, THOUGH ON A MUCH SMALLER SCALE, TO THAT PLANNED TO HANDLE THE CRASH OF AN AIRCRAFT CARRYING NUCLEAR WEAPONS;

....2

PAGE TWO DCI/1/4 OTT1 JAN23/78 S E C R E T

(B) BRIEFED EMERGENCY PLANNING CANADA ON THE SITUATION, WITH A REQUEST THAT USING SECURE COMMUNICATIONS IT INFORMS ITS REGIONAL DIRECTOR IN EACH PROVINCE, SO THAT IF AND WHEN ANY THREAT OF IMPACT ON CANADIAN TERRITORY IS IDENTIFIED, HE WILL BE IN A POSITION TO BRIEF THE COMMANDING OFFICER OF THE PROVINCIAL POLICE AND, WHEN APPROPRIATE, PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS;

(C) THE RCMP BE NOTIFIED WITH THE SUGGESTION THAT THE COMMANDING OFFICER IN EACH PROVINCE BE ALSO INFORMED;

(D) ARRANGED FOR THE HEAD OF THE NUCLEAR SAFETY DIVISION IN THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND WELFARE TO BE NOTIFIED;

(E) ARRANGED THAT IF AND WHEN A RISK TO ANY PART OF CANADIAN TERRITORY IS IDENTIFIED THE APPROPRIATE PROVINCIAL OFFICIALS WILL BE INFORMED IMMEDIATELY;

(F) CONSULTED WITH THE CANADIAN FORCES IN ORDER TO COORDINATE THIS ACTION;

(G) CAUTIONED ALL TO TREAT AS SENSITIVE INFORMATION. UNQUOTE CARE MUST BE TAKEN TO PREVENT PUBLIC SCARE BY INDISCRIMINATE RELEASE OF THIS INFORMATION. EMERGENCY PLANNING CANADA OFFICIALS HAVE UNDERTAKEN TO ALERT OPP AND OPF AT THE APPROPRIATE TIME WHEN MORE ACCURATE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. YOU MAY EXPECT ADDITIONAL CONTACT DIRECT WITH REGIONAL E.P.C. AUTHORITIES. BEST ESTIMATE OF CO-ORDINATES TO DATE IS 52.8 DEGREES NORTH, 69 DEGREES WEST. ESTIMATED TIME OF IMPACT 11:30 A.M. 24 JAN 78.

COMMR OTT

PLSE ACK MSG

D DIV WPG ACKS

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001394