



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE  
UNITED STATES STRATEGIC COMMAND

Reply To:  
USSTRATCOM/J6531  
901 SAC BLVD STE 1E5  
OFFUTT AFB NE 68113-6653

10 January 2003

REFER TO FOIA: 03-017C

Mr. Joseph T. Ryan  
15205 NE 16<sup>th</sup> PL Apt 47  
Bellevue WA 98007

References:

Your 30 November 2002 Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for copies of:

**"Radar data and short synopsis of any unclassified message traffic emanating from the (presumed) reentry of a Russian SL-12 rocket...morning of November 28, 2002."**

**"If available...additional information...related to sightings on November 29, 2002, over Southeastern US.... I understand we scrambled jets...on November 29."**

My letter, 11 December 2002, advising you of the status of your FOIA request.

Attached is a copy of the Action Officer's synopsis of the events mentioned in your request, and a copy of the ground radar-tracking chart.

Pursuant to Department of Defense Directive 5400.7-R, Chapter 6, paragraph 6C.1.4.3, we waive fees associated with this portion of your request.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. F. Kremer".

A. F. KREMER  
Command FOIA Manager  
Information Management Branch

Attachments: As stated

**SUBJECT: FOIA REQ - RADAR SIGHTINGS AND MESSAGE TRAFFIC - REENTRY  
RUSSIAN SL-12 ROCKET (03-017) COS 203104 (J302-3209)**

ACTION OFFICER: Major Rhett Butler/CMOC J3S

1. PURPOSE. (U) To reply to STRAT WEST Tasker (SW#02-3665)/ FOIA Request – Radar Sightings and Message Traffic – Reentry Russian SL-12 Rocket (03-017) COS 203104 (J302-3209) – Suspense 3 Jan 03.

2. DISCUSSION.

a. (U) CMOC J3M and J3S, in coordination with 1 SPCS, reviewed the request for information on the Russian SL-12 rocket body reentry on 28 Nov 02. After review of various sources of data and reporting criteria, and in keeping within the prescribed level of classification, the following statement is provided.

1. (U) At Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station in Colorado, the Space Control Center computer system and space analysts produced a final reentry prediction of space object #27558 (Russian Block DM- SL Rocket Body) on 28 Nov 02. This final reentry prediction indicated (see attached ground trace at Tab A) the rocket body was expected to reenter the Earth's atmosphere on 28 Nov 02 at 14:03:25 Zulu at N37.90 and E165.88. If the rocket body comes into the Earth's atmosphere later than expected, part of the ground trace shows the rocket body going over the United States. All of the Cheyenne Mountain Air Force Station Missile Warning Center capabilities or activities relating to this event are classified above the unclassified level.

b. (U) CMOC J3A researched the request for information regarding a press reported scramble of jets on 29 November and sightings over the Southeastern United States associated with the launch of fighter aircraft. After review of information available and in keeping with the prescribed level of classification, the following extracts from the 27 November Air Warning Center Log is provided (note: a review of the log for the 29<sup>th</sup> did not relate to the aforementioned request on jet activity).

2. (U) 20:31Z(U)CONR/SEADS: MIAMI CENTER REPORTED THAT AN AAL1269 SAW SOMETHING THAT IS PRODUCING CONTRAILS AT FL400; THE OBJECT CAME OUT OF THE WATER AND CROSSED THEIR ALTITUDE AND LEVELED OFF AT FL400

(U) MIAMI CENTER ALSO REPORTS A FEW MORE AIRLINES ALSO REPORTING THE CONTRAILS

(U) SEADS: USCG-MIAMI & MRSOC REPORT NEGATIVE FINDINGS REGARDING MYSTERY CONTRAILS IVO BAHAMAS.

(U) CONR: MIAMI CENTER REPORTED THAT US AIR 1786 AT FL350 REPORTED SPOTTING SOMETHING WITH AN EXTREMELY LONG CONTRAIL HEADING NORTHWEST BETWEEN FL350 - FL400; OBJECT IS MOVING EXTREMELY FAST; POSITION REPORT IS 2507N 07613W @2129Z.

(U) CONR: POSITION REPORT: 3043N 8353W @2200Z. WHICH CORRELATES ABOUT 30 MILES EAST OF DOTHAN, ALABAMA.

(U) SOLAR: NOTHING INDICATES THAT THE SPACE ENVIRONMENT IS THE CAUSE OF THIS "OBJECT".

*SEADS =  
South East Air Defense  
Section  
CONR =  
Comma Naval Region*

(U) SOLAR: IT IS POSSIBLE FOR CONTRAILS TO FORM IN THE AREA FROM NORTH CUBA TO GA. LOWEST LEVEL FOR EITHER LOW BYPASS ENGINES (F-15,16 TYPE) AND HIGH BYPASS ENGINES (HEAVIES) IS 360 WITH TOPS AROUND 670.

(U) ALL SR-71S REPORTED TO BE ON THE GROUND IN CA.

ASSET INVOLVEMENT:

(U) COMMANDER NORAD DIRECTED SCRAMBLE OF ALL EASTERN AIRBASES WITHIN PROXIMITY OF HIGH SPEED TRACK.

(U) THE FOLLOWING BASES WERE PLACED ON EITHER SUIT-UP, BATTLE STATIONS OR SCRAMBLED:

ALL WADS ALERT BASES *wide Area Data Services*  
KHST → Homestead AFB (FL)  
KPAM → Tyndall AFB (FL)  
KSSC → Holloman AFB (NM)  
KEFD → Ellington Field (Houston)  
KBKF → Buckley Airport (ANGB) Aurora CO (The AF Academy, I think)  
KMTC → Mt Clemens, MI Selfridge ANGB  
KMSN → Madison WI (airport only?)  
KACY → atlantic city, GA  
KFMH → otis AFB Chicopee Falls, MASS  
KDLH → Duluth, MN ??

3. RECOMMENDATION: (U) This information be released via the Freedom of Information process.

KARL R. VON KESSEL, Col, USAF  
Director of Operations  
Cheyenne Mountain Operations Center

TAB A: (U) Space Control Ground Trace

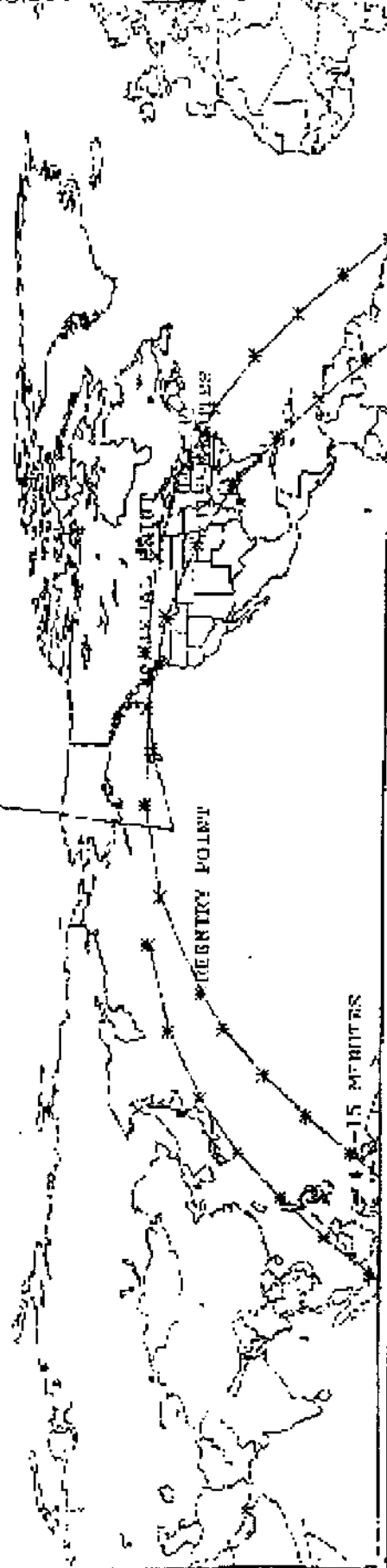
FOIA

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CGMDCG13CC

GROUND TRACK

027558 AT 102 236



<Q> RA SATELLITE NUMBER: 27558

PREDICTED REENTRY: 02 332 140325.478  
 LATITUDE : 37.900N  
 LONGITUDE : 165.88E

EARLY REENTRY TIME: 02 332 134525.478  
 LATITUDE : 1.25N  
 LONGITUDE : 131.95E  
 LATE REENTRY TIME : 02 332 141625.478  
 LATITUDE : 38.92N  
 LONGITUDE : 263.72E

BEST COPY AVAILABLE