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SLIN Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 0905 GMT 19 Dec 93

SUBS [From the "Russian Aeronauts" program: Report over video of stratospheric aerostats, Mars project graphics, modern airship; figures in brackets denote broadcast time in GMT in hours, minutes, and seconds

SUBJ Report Details Planned Use of Aerostats in Mars Exploration

Full Text Superzone of Message

- 1 ]
- 2 [Excerpt] [090500 thru 095444 -- passage omitted on largely historical feature about air balloons and airships over vintage footage]
- 3 [095445] [Unidentified correspondent over video of weather balloon] We are back in Russia. What you see are large stratospheric, automated aerostats. They are filled with hydrogen and are capable of carrying payloads of several tonnes. They travel over thousands of kilometers at altitudes in excess of 30,000 meters. Naturally, such aerostats can be used for studies in the interests of defense. It is possible to say right now that the technological standard of these systems occupies a ranking place in the world. The development of aeronautics was not disrupted in this sphere. The technology has been constantly improved. [caption reads 28 May 1991] There are three concepts for the application of these aerostats -- for military studies as mentioned earlier, for scientific studies of cosmic rays, and for global international programs like the Mars space project, for example.
- 4 The planned scientific studies of Mars in the nineties will pursue the creation of theoretical models of the evolution of Mars. Aerostat probes have been assigned an important role in the direct exploration of the Mars atmosphere and surface. A spacecraft comprising orbital and descent modules will be placed in an elliptical orbit around Mars at the beginning of September 1997. This orbit will be corrected by means of maneuvers in such a way as to obtain a position corresponding to the touchdown site. Toward the middle of September 1997 a descent module will leave the orbit. The Mars buggie and aerostat will be descended with the help of parachute systems which are brought into action gradually during the atmospheric descent. Following the unfurling and filling operation, the aerostat probe drifts through the atmosphere at various altitudes depending on the external temperature readings and the time of day. The guide rope is used to collect information on the atmosphere and the surface. At nighttime the aerostat is in contact with the surface via the guide rope. You see footage of the release [otstrel] of an aerostat probe at an altitude of 35,000 meters. [caption reads 28 February 1992]
- 5 Attention! This is secret footage of a laboratory for the production of UFO's, I repeat, a laboratory for the production of UFO's. Well, actually, it is something much more prosaic. It is a modern Russian airship, our "thermoplane." [caption reads 28 August 1992] It is designed for installation work in Siberia, the Far North, and the Far East and for accident rescue operations. [095803] [video shows stratospheric aerostats, graphics of Mars project, airship shaped like a flying saucer on an airstrip surrounded by trucks] [passage omitted on international air balloon crossing planned for 1994 which will end in Red Square] (endall) 190905 [REDACTED] 20/1543z dec WC 485 BT #9487 NNNN

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Approved for Release

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