

“Ready for Another Flight” — Gagarin

Moscow Hails First in Space



Muscovites in a square in the Red capital celebrate Russia's successful effort to safely orbit a man in space. Maj. Yuri Gagarin was rocketed around the earth in a space vehicle and brought back to a predetermined point in Soviet Russia. Gagarin is history's first cosmonaut.

—AP Wirephoto



This is the official portrait of Soviet Air Force Major Yuri Gagarin, first man to soar into space.

Russia Sneers at Three Skeptical London Papers

CP from AP-Reuters

LONDON — Russia today termed as “spitful” reports from three London newspapers questioning the Soviet Union’s account of the timing of its manned space flight.

Elsewhere, the space flight continued to win international acclaim and dominate front pages of newspapers.

Russia’s minute-by-minute chart of the flight was questioned by The Daily Express, The Daily Telegraph and The Sketch.

(An American space official said Wednesday night in Washington there was “no reason to doubt” Soviet claims about the flight and that information from United States tracking stations differed exactly with the Russian announcement on the flight route and timing.)

Talks, the official Soviet news agency, said today that “our own critics in London must give full opinions of the flight—people who try to obscure the achievement of Soviet people.”

A science writer in The Express said: “British intelligence experts suspect that man’s first space flight was not retraced, but some time in the previous six days.”

The Russians “would never announce the flight until the cosmonaut had returned safely, in case they might have to blame it by news of his death,” The Express said.

But the newspaper also reported that British scientists discount the theory that two Russian men went into orbit—a man who is ill or dead after a flight

Friday and the airman who succeeded Wednesday.

“They do not think that even the Russians could mount two such tremendous efforts in such a short period,” The Express said.

Talks said the Express reports quoted “informers from the British intelligence service” had had not “dared to publish their daily tales on its front page.”

IMPOSSIBLE ORBIT

The Daily Telegraph said if the space ship was fired in western Russia “where all other agencies have come from” and 40 degrees to the Romanov station later.

The timetable published by The Telegraph report said, noting that on Russia’s past record, an astronaut stood only a 20-second chance of successfully returning to earth.

Talks said the Telegraph report’s drummed out argument was “spitful.”

Toasted Throughout Russia; Khrushchev To Attend Ceremony

(CP from AP-Reuters)

MOSCOW—Moscow today prepared a hero’s welcome for Yuri Gagarin as the world’s first space man indicated he was ready to make another flight into orbit if called upon.

The 27-year-old cosmonaut was toasted throughout the Soviet Union amid indications that ceremonies honoring him for his conquest of space might be held in the capital Friday.

Spokesmen for the government adopted their customary tight-lipped silence, but official Soviet photographers said they hoped to be able to make new pictures Friday of Khrushchev, a new plough boy.

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“WILL LET YOU KNOW”

Asked whether Gagarin would be welcomed in Moscow Friday, a spokesman: “When we have information, we will let you know.”

When the public triumph in stages for Gagarin, Premier Khrushchev is certain to be on the spot. The premier, vacationing at the Black Sea resort of Sochi, telephoned Gagarin after his landing Wednesday and told him: “I shall be glad to meet you in Moscow. We shall meet with you, with all our people, the great feat in the conquest of outer space.”

Newspapers were filled with the man-in-space feat and all stops were pulled out to herald the triumph of Soviet science under communism. Some wires launched ecstatically long poetry.

“There was almost no trace of fatigue on his young face,” reported the Pravda newspaper, which interviewed him after the landing.

The space ship was reported to have come down “exactly in the designated area.” The only clue to its location was that it was a farm country, for tractor drivers were reported among the crowd.

Gagarin and a helicopter flew his to the landing site.

The target area also was observed. (Continued on Page 5)

The Daily Nugget
(North Bay, Ontario)
Thursday, April 13, 1961

Courtesy of the
“Gordon Allison Collection”

“Lie in the Sky”—British Paper

LONDON (Reuters)—The first flush of wonder at Yuri Gagarin’s awe-inspiring space flight yielded to a more sober mood today as some pointed questioning by Western agencies.

The London Daily Sketch bluntly summed up the skeptical view under the banner headline: “Moscow’s lie in the sky.”

“Yuri Gagarin actually flew the sky from 7:00 a.m. until 3:55 a.m.,” commented British news agency.

Moscow kept the world clattering by the radio during a world live in tell the tale.” The Sketch asked: “Not a chance of it,” the tale told immediately concluded in an edit-out pointed for disconcert of this morning.

The British space reporter argued that “Russia replayed the whole drama—lie in the sky—five days after it actually happened.”

“Experts say the experts would never have put themselves in a position where they might have had to say ‘Sorry, we seem to have lost contact with Gagarin.’”

ANOTHER ROCKET?

The Sketch speculated that either “Gagarin” made his trip last Friday or that he went up in a standby rocket after another astronaut, Grumley Mikhailov, was shot into space and died.

Earlier Monday, some experts singled out for comment the fact that Russia departed from practice in giving in an apparent “no-no” to account for Gagarin and a helicopter flew his to the landing site.

Previously, Russia always had presented the world with a successfully accomplished flight.

Russia’s Professor A. S. Blagovarov assured world scientists at a conference in Florence Italy, that Wednesday’s shot in space was the first attempt of manned space flight.

Western reports recently have speculated that several Soviet astronauts have died in earlier flights.