

Russians Ready for Manned Shot Around Moon

MOSCOW, Nov. 25 (UPI)—The Soviet Union announced today that it can now build spaceships to carry astronauts to the moon, and it said the fliers would encounter no hazardous radiation.

An announcement in the Government newspaper Izvestia said that the recent circumlunar journey of the spaceship Zond 6, had found that the radiation between earth and the moon is "almost 100 times less than the permissible level" a spaceman can endure.

The report indicated that the Russians were far along the path toward manned lunar flight. There has been considerable speculation here that the Russians may try to send a manned flight toward the moon as early as Dec. 8, two weeks before the United States launches Apollo 8 and its crew of three on a circumlunar trip.

The unmanned Zond spaceships apparently could carry men to the moon if the capsules were modified somewhat, the Russians indicated over the weekend.

Thus far Soviet astronauts have flown only in the Soyuz series of space trips.

Earlier this month top Russian scientists expressed con-

Izvestia Says Zond 6 Found Man Could Survive Level of Radiation in Space

cern over the possibility that space radiation might make manned flights to the moon hazardous. They also said they feared other possible lunar perils but did not elaborate.

However, the flights of Zond 5 and 6, which looped the moon while carrying living specimens and returned to earth, apparently have wiped out these anxieties.

Zond 6 brought back information that "testifies to the possibilities of insuring radiation of spacemen on the way from the earth to the moon and back, provided that there are no solar turbulences at the time," Izvestia said.

America's Apollo officials have long contended that radiation presented no barrier to manned lunar flight, if the moonship has a thick hull.

The United States maintains a network of solar radiation lookout posts—in space and on earth—to warn against intense radiation caused in space by solar storms.

Izvestia said the flights of both automatic Zond spaceships had proved that man can be shielded from radiation, which could alter human cells, burn the skin or cause hereditary changes if encountered in sufficient doses.

The Russians also said that Zond 6 had carried out mapping experiments essential to manned lunar landings.