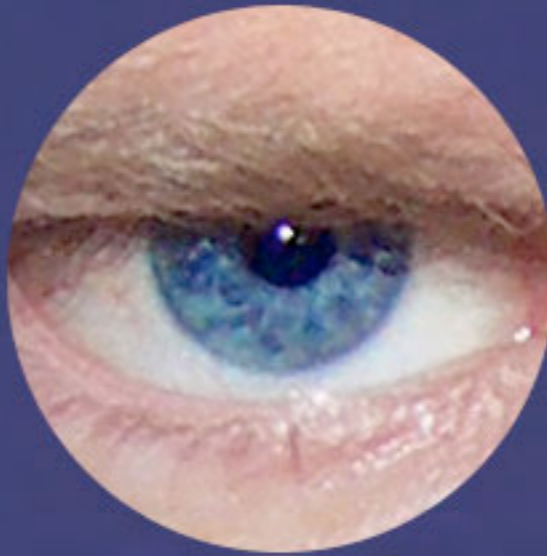


**SKEPTOID**

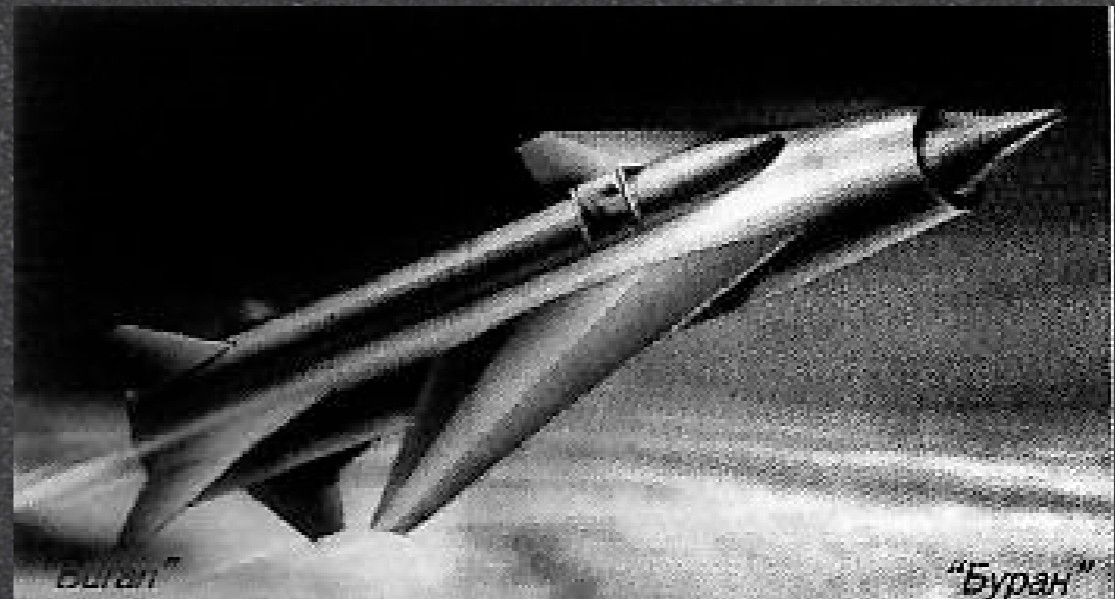


## **Skeptoid Podcast**

Critical Analysis  
of Pop Phenomena  
<http://skeptoid.com>

Brian Dunning

Solving  
The Missing Cosmonauts



# The Space Race



Sputnik I  
USSR, 1957



Explorer I  
USA, 1958



Albert / V2  
USA, 1948



Yuri Gagarin  
USSR, 1961

# Achille & Giovanni Judica-Cordiglia

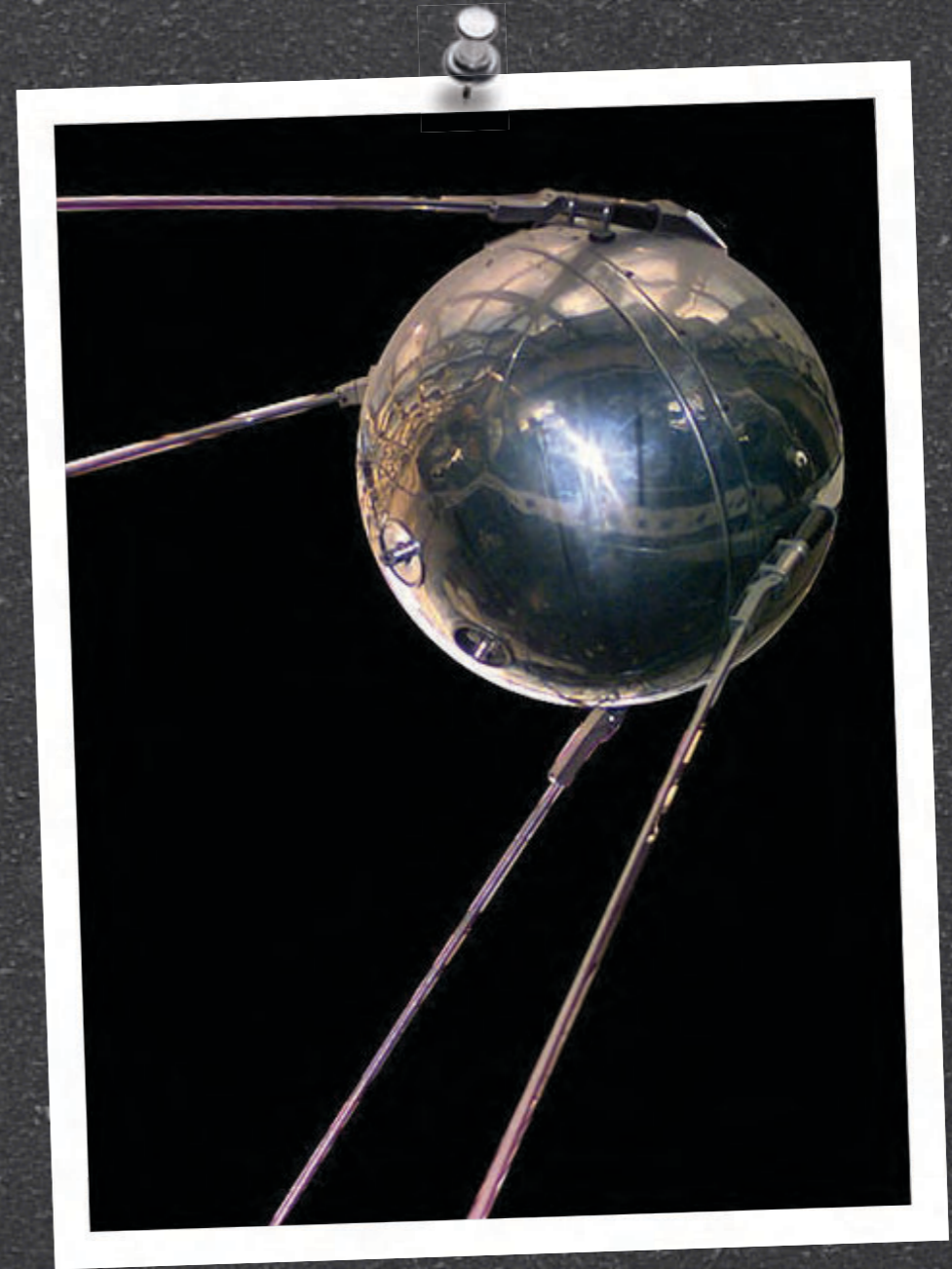


# “Torre Bert”



Oct 1957

Sputnik 1  
Unmanned



Nov 1957

Sputnik 2  
Dog "Laika"



Nov 1960

No known flight  
S-O-S Morse Code

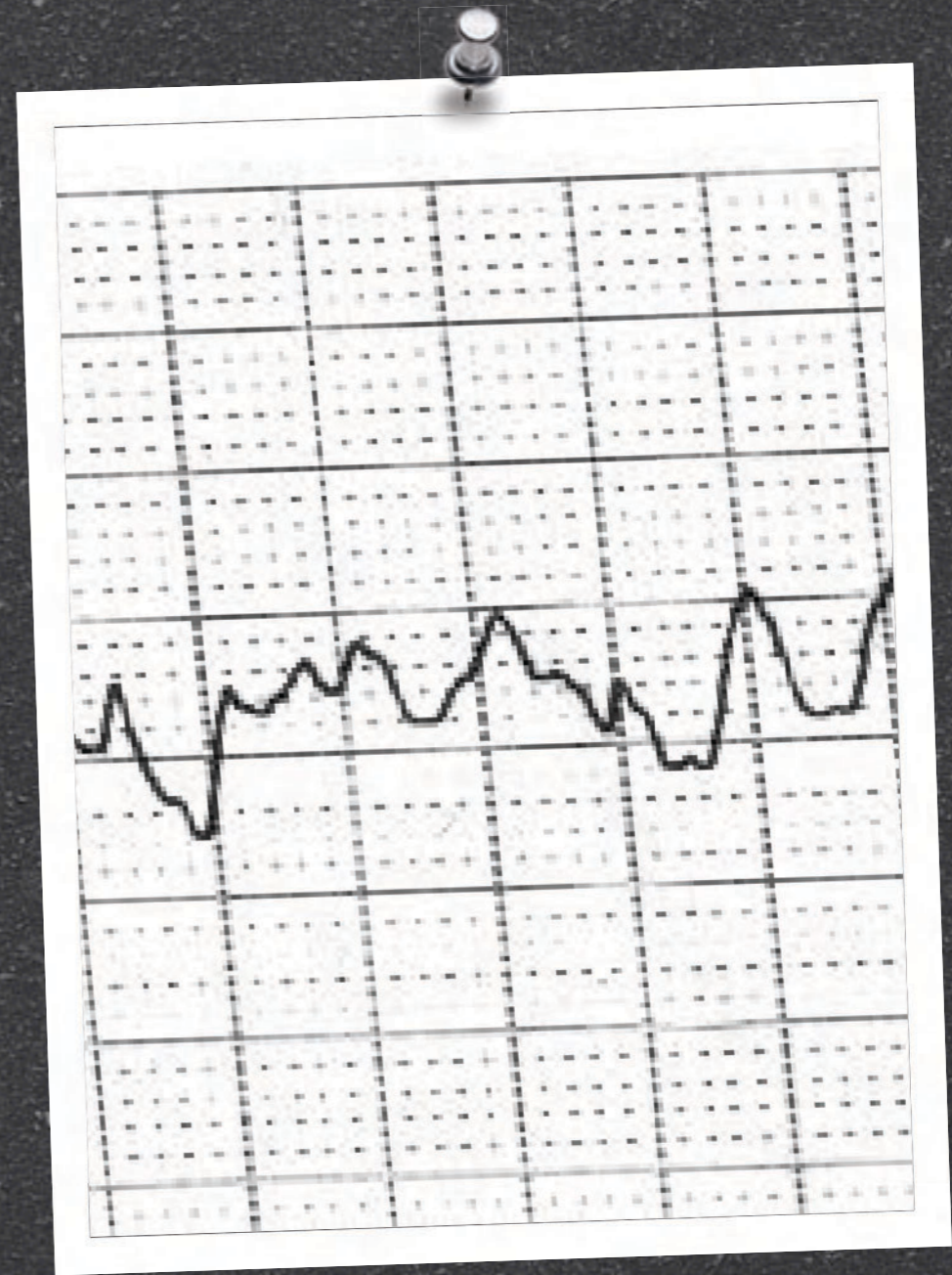
(Audio not available)





Feb 1961

No known flight



Feb 1961

No known flight



# “Ludmila” May 1961

Isn't this dangerous?

Talk to me!

I'm hot, I'm hot.

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.



# Did Cosmonauts Disappear from History?











# Reasons Why It Ain't Necessarily So

# No Corroborating Reports

- Defense Early Warning, 1959
- North American Air Defense Command, 1958
- Americans, Canadians, Germans, British, and French
- West would have loved nothing better to report



# No Female Cosmonauts in 1961

- Recording was May 1961
- Program approved October 1961
- First 5 women selected February 1962
- First flight, Valentina Tereshkova, June 1963 (Vostok 6)



# Timeline Doesn't Fit

- Cosmonauts selected; training extensively documented  
March 1960
- Vostok 1, Yuri Gagarin  
April 1961
- “Ludmila” recording  
May 1961
- Vostok 2, Gherman Titov  
August 1961



If She Wasn't a  
Doomed Cosmonaut...

Who Was She?  
What Was She Doing?

# Who Was She?

- Ludmila Serakovna  
d. 1961  
Lore, no record
- Ludmila Tokovny  
d. 1961  
Lore, no record
- No documentation of  
how “Ludmila” got  
connected to this  
recording



# What Was She Doing?



# X-15, 1959-1968

- 4,520 mph (Mach 6.7)
- 353,000 ft (108 km)
- Astronaut wings earned by 2 pilots
- Pilots included Neil Armstrong, Scott Crossfield

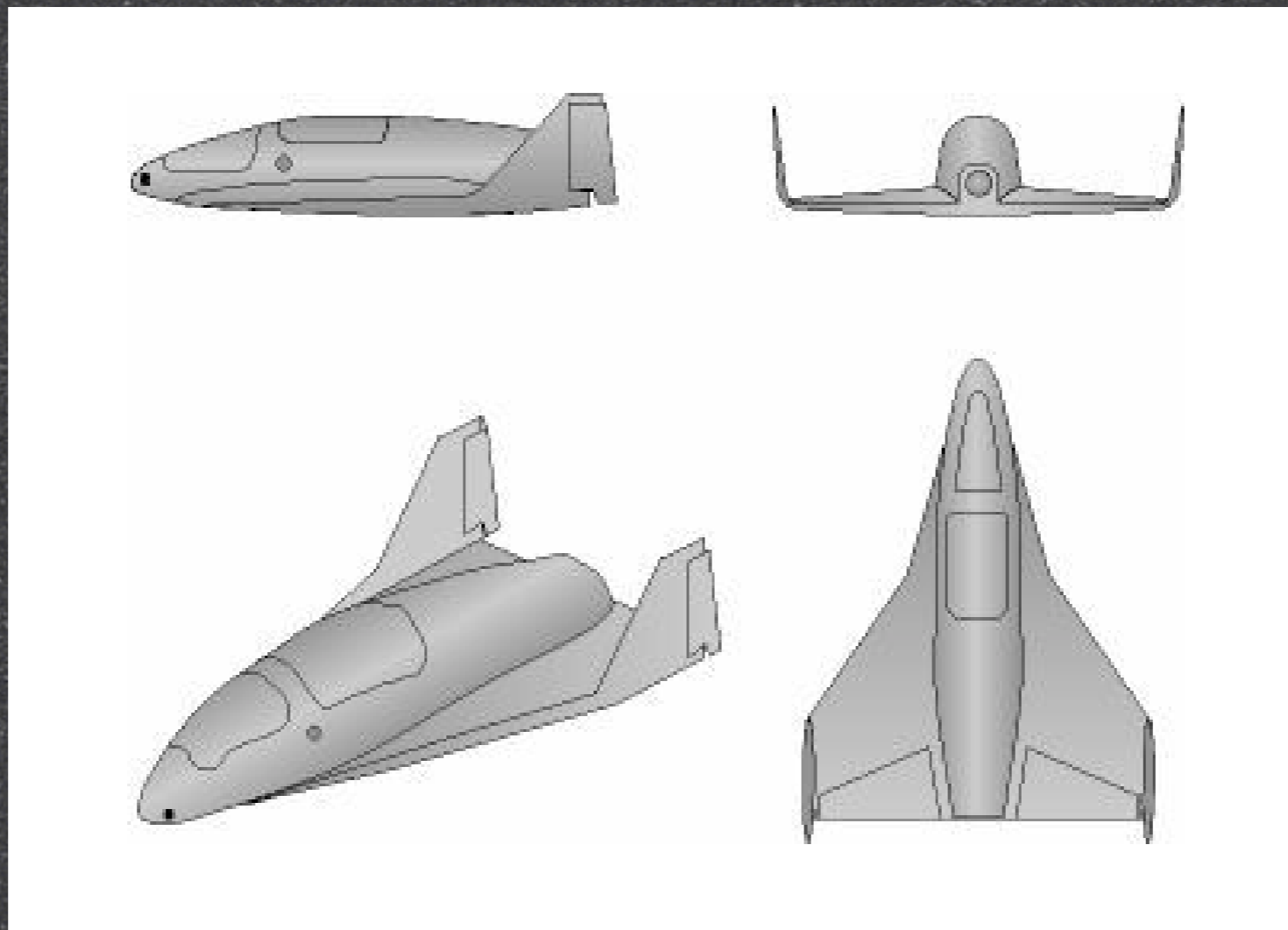




# X-15 Flight Profile

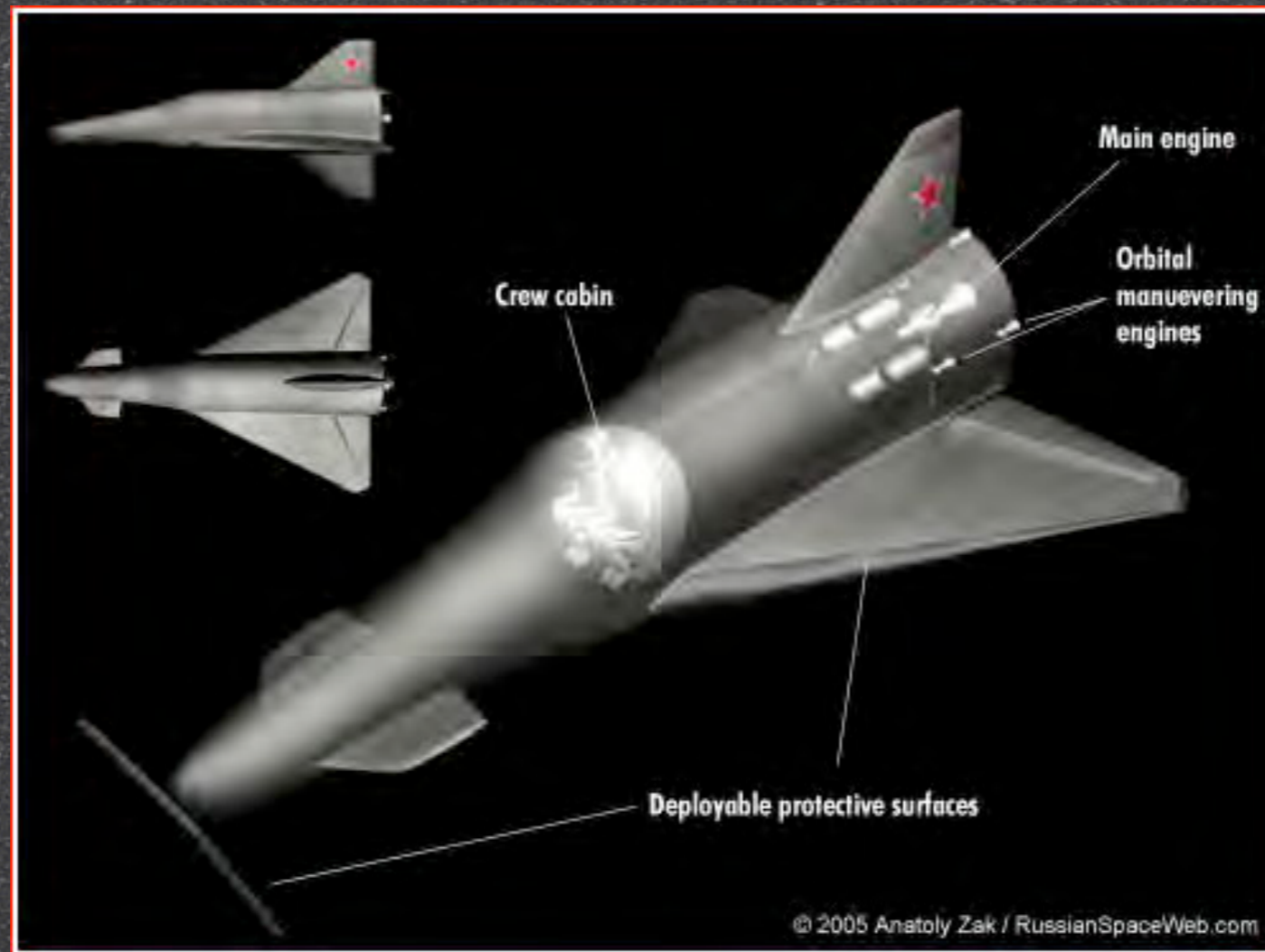


# Soviet Space Planes



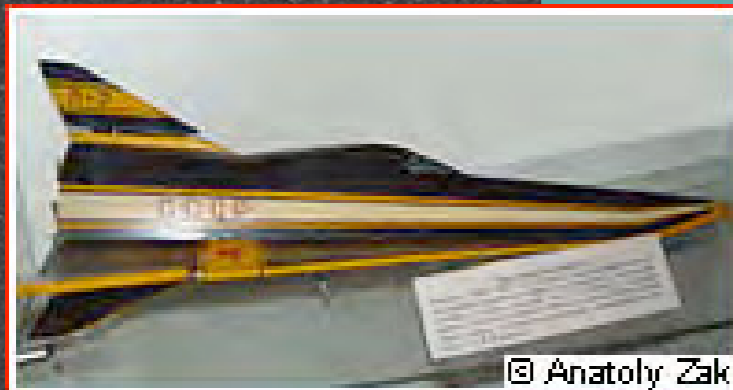
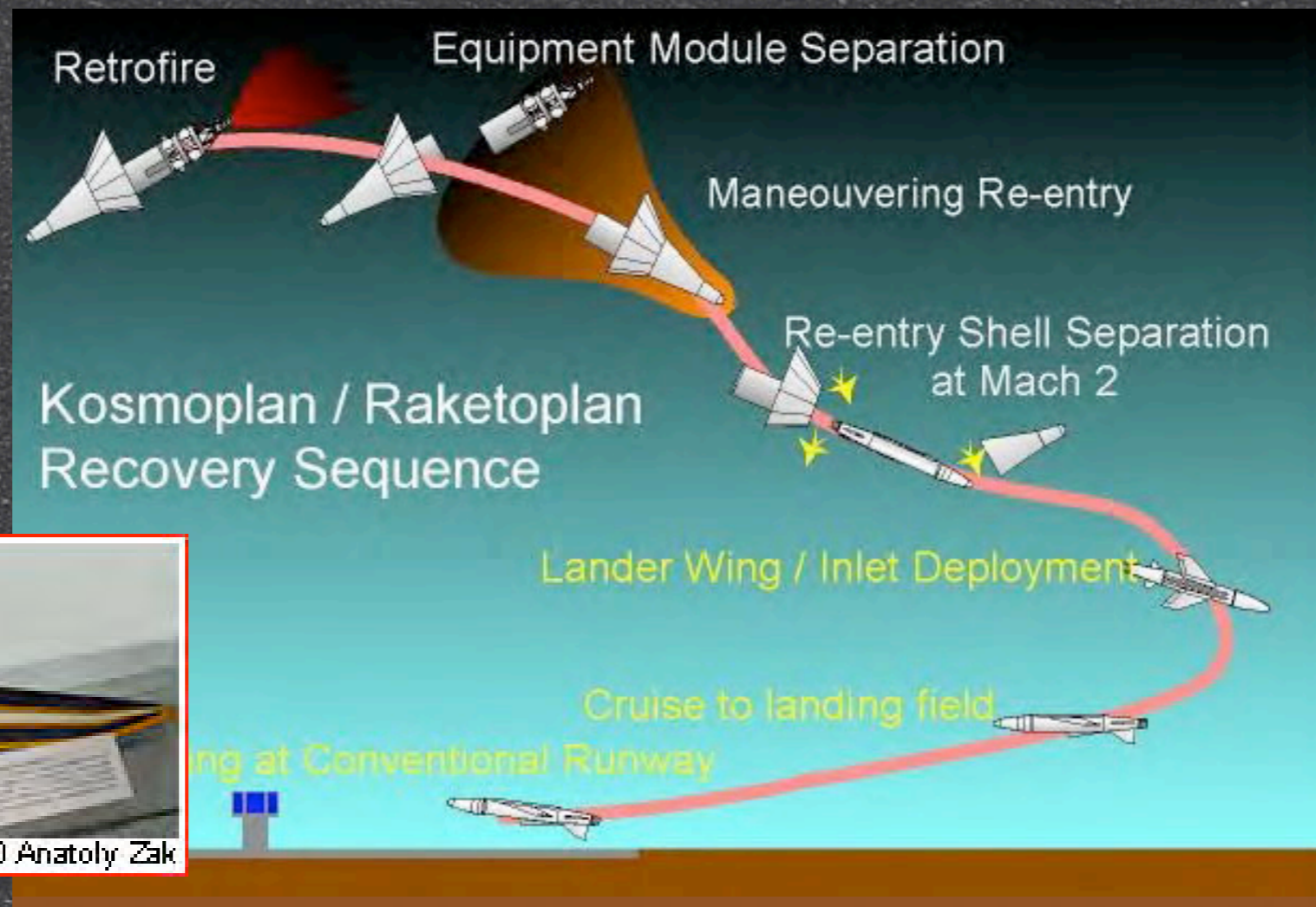
VKA-23 Spaceplane  
Never built, Canceled 1960

# Soviet Space Planes



Orbital glider  
Never built, Canceled 1960

# Soviet Space Planes



Kosmoplan & Raketoplan  
Design 1960, Test 1962

# 1961 High Altitude



Beriev S-13, U-2 copy  
Canceled 1962, just before flight

# 1961 Jet Fighters



Ye-150

U-2 interceptor  
Mach 2.8, 65,000 ft.



Mig-21

Mach 2.2, 62,000 ft.

# High Altitude Balloons

- Joseph Kittinger  
USAF, August  
1960
- 102,000 feet
- 614 mph
- 4 minutes  
freefall



Conclusion:



# Get Your Own Translators.

Boris Kosyagin  
Svetlana Bavykina  
Danko Jordanov  
Gina Ledyak

Isn't this dangerous?

Talk to me!

I'm hot, I'm hot.

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

Isn't this dangerous?

Talk to me!

I'm hot, I'm hot.

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me!

I'm hot, I'm hot.

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me! / I will transmit

I'm hot, I'm hot.

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me! / I will transmit

I'm hot, I'm hot. / Don't give up / Not right

I can see a flame.

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me! / I will transmit

I'm hot, I'm hot. / Don't give up / Not right

~~I can see a flame.~~

Am I going to crash?

I will re-enter.

Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me! / I will transmit

I'm hot, I'm hot. / Don't give up / Not right

~~I can see a flame.~~

~~Am I going to crash?~~

I will re-enter.



Mostly a lot of numbers.

~~Isn't this dangerous?~~

Talk to me! / I will transmit

I'm hot, I'm hot. / Don't give up / Not right

~~I can see a flame.~~

~~Am I going to crash?~~

~~I will re-enter.~~ Return, return.



But we had fun and  
learned a lot.

Further Reading:

[Astronautix.com](http://Astronautix.com)

[LostCosmonauts.com](http://LostCosmonauts.com)

[Soviet X-Planes \(Midland\)](#)

End

