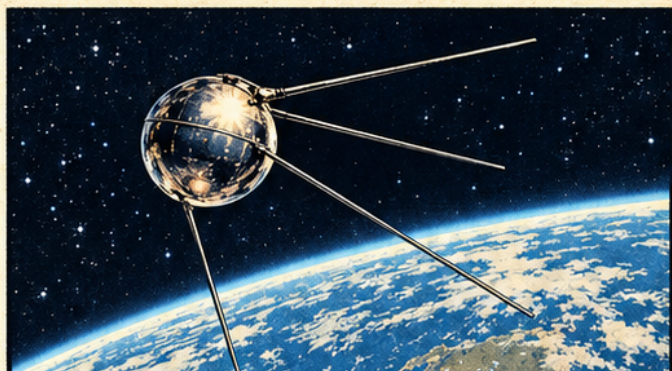


FROM SPUTNIK TO APOLLO

The documented space race before Beter's account takes a different path.



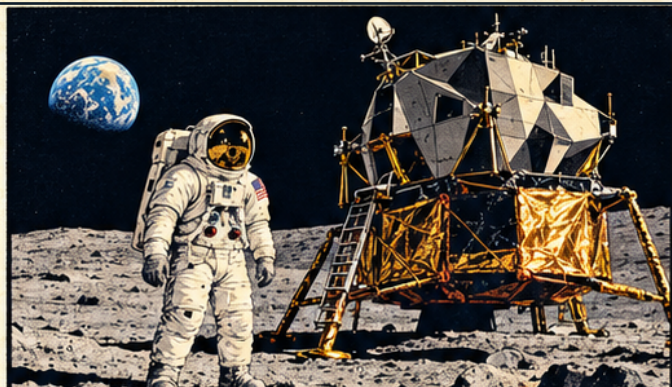
1 4 OCTOBER 1957 / SPUTNIK

The Soviet launch of Sputnik 1 opened the space age. Competition in orbit carried scientific, military and political importance. Beter begins AL26 against this real historical background before introducing his interpretation of the Moon programme.



2 MERCURY - GEMINI - APOLLO

The American path ran through Mercury, Gemini and Apollo. Gemini bridged the programmes by testing rendezvous, docking, long flights and spacewalks. These skills helped make the lunar missions possible; they are part of the documented engineering story.



3 20 JULY 1969 / APOLLO 11

Armstrong and Aldrin landed on the Moon while Collins remained in lunar orbit. Beter accepts the public Apollo landings in AL26; his additional claim is that the programme also concealed a military objective. That extra claim needs separate evidence.



4 THE CANCELLED MISSIONS

NASA records cancellations in January and September 1970, leaving Apollo 17 as the last lunar landing mission. The surviving flights were renumbered. Cancellation records are not evidence that the missing missions flew secretly under their former numbers.



5 APOLLO 17 / TWO DIFFERENT DATES

The lunar ascent occurred on 14 December 1972; splashdown on Earth followed on 19 December. AL26 assigns the lunar departure to the 19th. We retain Beter's broader argument while correcting this specific chronological error.



6 THE SOVIET ORBITAL PATH

The Soviet programme developed orbital stations: Salyut 1 launched on 19 April 1971, and Salyut 6 followed in 1977. That documented station programme later becomes a key setting in Beter's quite different account of a lunar operation.

THE ALLEGED HIDDEN PROGRAMME

AL26 connects a secret lunar installation to Diego Garcia; AL37 adds Skylab's alleged support role.



1 A MILITARY PURPOSE BEHIND APOLLO

AL26 portrays the lunar programme as preparation for a secret beam-weapons base. Beter attributes the project to the ruling circle he calls the Rockefellers. This is his interpretation of intent, not an authenticated Apollo programme objective.



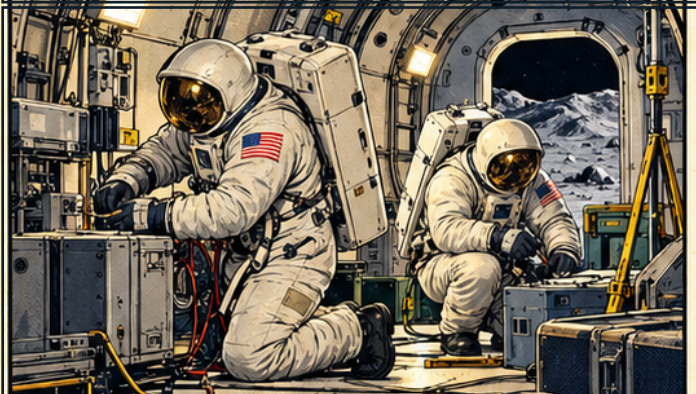
2 DIEGO GARCIA / THE REAL BASE

The correct place name is Diego Garcia, a low coral atoll in the Indian Ocean. U.S. Navy history records construction from 1971 and commissioning of its communication station on 20 March 1973. A base existed; its alleged lunar role is another question.



3 A SECRET SPACEPORT IN AL26

Beter calls the isolated island a launch point for secret lunar missions, emphasizing distance from observers and flight over open ocean. The launch installation shown is imagined; naval construction records do not verify his spaceport claim.



4 WHAT THE LETTER DOES NOT LIST

AL26 describes continued flights and construction, but the passages used here provide no independently verifiable manifest of post-Apollo lunar crews and launches. We therefore add no invented Apollo numbers, astronaut names or precise launch schedule.



5 COPERNICUS / THE CLAIMED TARGET

Beter places the American installation in Copernicus crater, assembling a particle-beam weapon to threaten Earth. The real crater does not establish a military base; the buildings and machinery shown are artistic reconstructions.



6 SKYLAB AS A WAY STATION

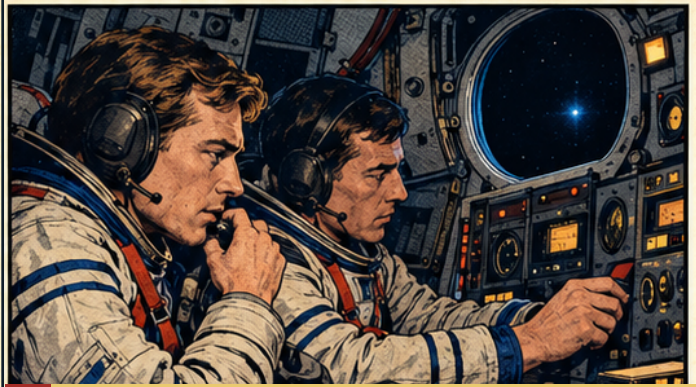
AL37 later calls Skylab an orbital way station in the secret military lunar programme. This links Earth, orbit and Moon within Beter's account. It must be distinguished from Skylab's documented role as an American research station.

1977 / THE RACE FOR THE BEAM

Read Cosmos 929 and Cosmos 954 separately, and distinguish the early account from its later detail.

**1 COSMOS 929 / AL26**

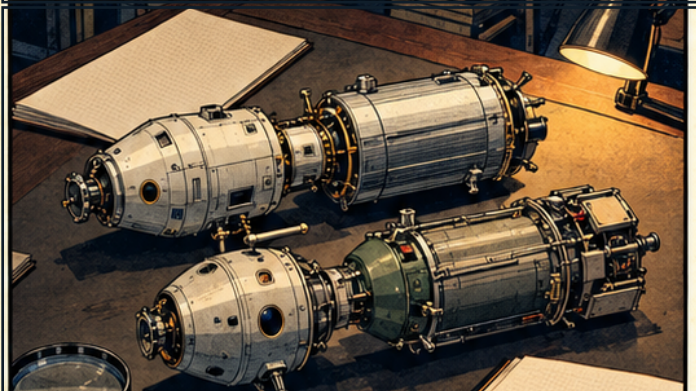
AL26 describes Cosmos 929, launched on 17 July 1977, as a crewed twin system with a command module and a separate beam-weapon module. This configuration is Beter's claim. The drawing is not an authenticated portrait of the spacecraft.

**2 THE COMMUNICATIONS EXPLANATION**

Beter says laser links explain why observers did not hear normal crew radio traffic. He also describes extensive checks before a weapon test. These details make his narrative more specific, but specificity alone does not verify an undisclosed crew or armament.

**3 20 SEPTEMBER / PETROZAVODSK**

AL26 interprets the luminous phenomenon near Petrozavodsk as the destruction of an American satellite by Cosmos 929. We illustrate the reported sky spectacle without turning a witness's view of light into proof of Beter's proposed cause.

**4 COSMOS 954 / THE LATER IDENTIFICATION**

AL26 names Cosmos 929 and refers to another beam satellite. AL30 explicitly identifies Cosmos 954 as the craft assigned to the lunar attack, with a neutron-beam weapon. Do not silently attribute that later identification to the first September report.

**5 THE AMERICAN DEADLINE**

In AL26, the Copernicus installation is still approaching operational readiness when the Soviet attack begins. Beter builds the battle around this timing: the lunar weapon is almost ready, but the orbital opponent acts first.

**6 EVENT DATE VERSUS REPORT DATE**

The alleged battle ends on 27 September 1977; AL26 is recorded on 30 September. AL30 follows on 28 January 1978, after Cosmos 954's reentry. Keeping these dates distinct shows how the published account develops over time.

26-27 SEPTEMBER / THE BATTLE

A reconstruction of AL26 and AL30, not an independently documented combat record.

**1 THE ATTACK BEGINS**

AL26 says the bombardment begins late on 26 September. AL30 identifies the firing platform as Cosmos 954 in Earth orbit. The claimed engagement is from orbit toward the Moon, not a landing force assaulting the crater.

**2 THE NEUTRON-WEAPON CLAIM**

The letters attribute the attack to neutron radiation directed at the personnel inside the base. We show an alarmed control room rather than invent a visible blast pattern. The cited account supplies no independently verified medical or casualty documentation.

**3 THE LINE-OF-SIGHT INTERRUPTION**

AL30 says firing pauses whenever Earth blocks the satellite's view of the Moon. That constraint belongs to Beter's own description. The image is a spatial illustration, not a calculated orbit or a validated weapon trajectory.

**4 27 SEPTEMBER / THE CLAIMED OUTCOME**

By the end of 27 September, Beter says the American crew has been killed and the base put out of action. This dossier adds neither a casualty count nor invented identities. The empty corridor conveys the claimed loss without depicting bodies.

**5 THE HARVEST MOON CONTRAST**

AL26 contrasts an apparently peaceful autumn Moon with the tragedy he says is taking place there. This gives the episode its title and emotional force. The familiar sky above Earth and the alleged hidden conflict form the story's central contrast.

**6 THE POLITICAL INTERPRETATION**

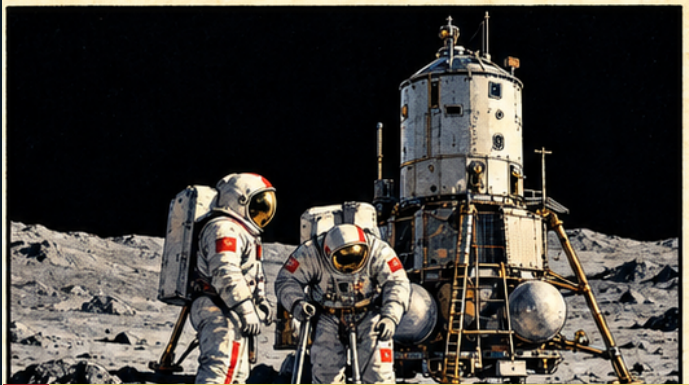
AL26 reads subsequent Soviet pressure over arms negotiations as a consequence of victory in space. That is Beter's causal interpretation. Diplomatic activity alone cannot establish the existence or outcome of the battle he describes.

OCTOBER / TWO CHRONOLOGIES

Soyuz 25, the claimed Soviet lunar landing and the disputed fate of Skylab.

**1 SOYUZ 25 / THE RECORDED MISSION**

NASA's Mir Hardware Heritage gives Soyuz 25's flight as 9-11 October 1977. Kovalyonok and Ryumin failed to achieve a complete hard docking with Salyut 6 and returned. A docking attempt is documented; a lunar transfer is not established by that record.

**2 16 OCTOBER / BETER'S ALTERNATIVE**

AL27 claims the reported docking failure concealed a successful connection to lunar propulsion equipment. It places the same cosmonauts in Jules Verne crater on 16 October. This directly differs from the documented return of Soyuz 25 to Earth.

**3 18 OCTOBER / THE FIREBALL CLAIM**

Beter interprets a reported fireball over the United States as Skylab's destruction by a Cosmos Interceptor. AL27 presents this as removal of a potential American space asset. The illustrated streak does not identify the object or verify the proposed attack.

**4 SKYLAB IN THE MISSION RECORD**

NASA records Skylab remaining in orbit until 11 July 1979. Its account describes orbital decay, atmospheric drag and ground commands, followed by reentry over the Indian Ocean and Australia. This conflicts with Beter's October 1977 destruction date.

**5 TWO ACCOUNTS, NOT ONE MERGED STORY**

Beter calls the orbit-decay reports a cover story. NASA records the station's later control and reentry. Keeping both claims visible is more informative than merging their dates into one sequence or presenting them as equally substantiated.

**6 THE LINK TO THE SPACE TRIAD**

The alleged victory becomes Beter's turning point: Soviet interceptors, lunar weapons and Cosmospheres subsequently form the space triad. Dossier 03 explains those claimed roles. Here the battle serves as the narrative origin of that new balance of power.

CANADA / COSMOS 954 AND THE RECORD

The January 1978 reentry, the later crew claim and the distinction between Skylab and Spacelab.



1 24 JANUARY 1978 / THE REAL INCIDENT

Health Canada records Cosmos 954's crash in the Northwest Territories: a Soviet surveillance satellite with a nuclear power source scattered radioactive debris across northern Canada. Nuclear electrical power is not the same as a nuclear rocket engine.



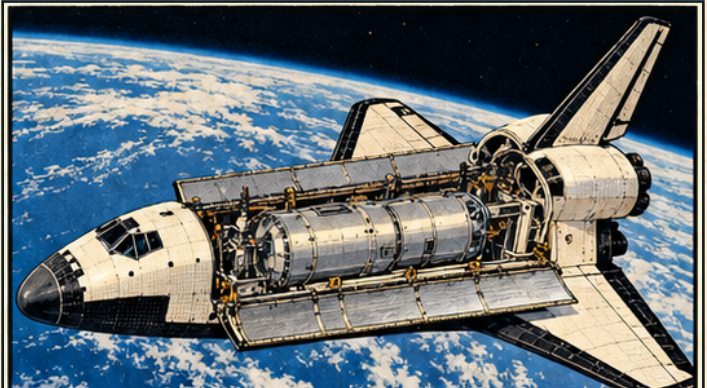
2 OPERATION MORNING LIGHT

The joint Canadian-American search and cleanup was called Operation Morning Light. This documented recovery concerns radioactive satellite debris. The scene is an illustration of that work, not a photograph or a reconstruction of a particular recovered fragment.



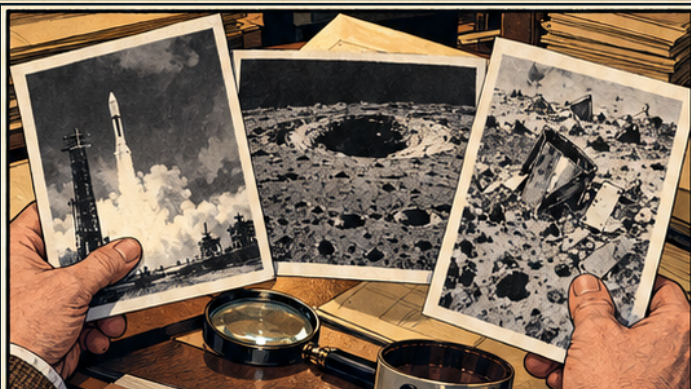
3 AL30 / THE SURVIVING-CREW CLAIM

Four days later, Beter describes a crew capsule that survived and a crew awaiting rescue. He links the descent to failed orbit-correction thrusters after the lunar attack. The Canadian incident record does not verify that crew, weapon or causal chain.



4 SKYLAB IS NOT SPACELAB

Skylab was the American orbital station discussed in AL27. Spacelab was a laboratory carried in the Space Shuttle's payload bay. Its first flight, STS-9 aboard Columbia, launched on 28 November 1983. The similar names refer to different hardware and programmes.



5 WHAT WOULD CONNECT THE CLAIMS?

A confirmed launch or a real crater supplies a reference point, not proof of a secret mission. The additional links would need independently traceable records: crews, flight paths, hardware or observations tied to the alleged operation. The cited sources do not establish them.



6 A STORY THAT CAN BE CHECKED

This dossier preserves Beter's sequence while marking its later additions and conflicts with mission records. The final chronology keeps event dates, report dates and the evidence status apart. Readers can return to the original letters and judge each link separately.

Event dates, recording dates and comparison with historical sources.

DATE	BETER’S ACCOUNT	HISTORICAL RECORD / CONTEXT
1970	AL26 interprets the cancellations as cover for a continuing secret programme. [A]	NASA cancelled and renumbered missions in January and September 1970. [H]
14 / 19 12.1972	AL26 gives 19 December as Apollo 17’s departure from the Moon. [A]	Lunar ascent: 14 December. Splashdown on Earth: 19 December. [I]
20.03.1973	AL26 describes Diego Garcia as a clandestine lunar launch site. [A]	A naval communications station was commissioned here on this date. [K]
26-27 09.1977	AL26 places the attack on the alleged Copernicus base on these dates. [A]	The cited external records do not independently confirm this battle.
30.09.1977	Date of Audio Letter 26, the principal account used in this dossier. [A]	The transcript documents the claim’s publication, not the alleged event.
09-16 10.1977	AL27 claims the Soyuz 25 crew later reached Jules Verne on 16 October. [B]	Soyuz 25 flew 9-11 October and returned after an incomplete hard docking. [L]
18.10.1977	AL27 identifies a reported fireball as the destruction of Skylab. [B]	NASA records Skylab’s atmospheric re-entry on 11 July 1979. [M]
24.01.1978	AL30 subsequently alleges that Cosmos 954 carried a surviving crew. [C]	A reactor-powered Soviet satellite fell over Canada; Operation Morning Light recovered debris. [N]
28.01.1978	AL30 explicitly assigns Cosmos 954 a role in the lunar attack. [C]	This is the date of the later account, not independent confirmation of that role.
28.11.1983	Spacelab is included here to distinguish it from the earlier Skylab station.	The first Spacelab mission launched aboard Columbia on STS-9. [O]

HOW TO READ THIS PAGE

Labels [A]-[O] refer to Sources.txt attached to the PDF and included in the ZIP. AL means Audio Letter. A matching date or a satellite’s real existence does not by itself establish a secret military role.