Oberg-Fobos-Nov24 – Moronic Russian Accusation of US Sabotage

Jimo // nov 24 at 10:43 AM
Interfax [0938 GMT] is quoting some "former commander of the missile attack early warning army", Lieut. Gen. Nikolai Rodionov, as claiming Ph-G "could have been disabled by external influence caused by emissions from a powerful U.S. radar in Alaska".

Specifically, "The Phobos-Grunt station's trajectory was within the range of powerful American radars located in Alaska. I am afraid that electromagnetic emissions from these radars could have influenced the control systems of our interplanetary rover," he said. "As a matter of fact, stations are being built suggesting that the U.S. wants to use the ionosphere in the interest of its missile defense," he is quoted as adding -- apparently referring to HAARP.

Problem is -- I don't see the early ground tracks anywhere near Alaska, and at the low altitude of the parking orbit, I don't see any direct lines-of-sight in the period leading up to the failure. Can anybody help?

Rodionov did hit a common theme in the Russian defense ministry, the possibility that use of foreign avionics [up to 80% of such components in spacecraft are of foreign origin] opens a military security issue. His words: "We need to be concerned about it. We should certainly think about how to protect all of our means and to use the foreign element base as little as possible because a signal can be sent at some point and some microcircuits can be activated, disabling a rocket or a spaceship."

This is not a fantasy, and he may be referring to the successful CIA efforts in the 1980s under 'Project Farewell', which allowed specially-prepared data and hardware on the GRU's "steal-this-gadget" list [targets forbidden for export from the US to the USSR] to find their way into Soviet hands AFTER being 'adjusted' by CIA specialists. As punishment for such thefts and as a warning to distrust ALL such acquisitions, the program reportedly was quite effective.

But Phobos-Grunt? Comrade General Rodionov, get a clue.