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Reds Claim Progress On A-Powered Rocket

MOSCOW, Oct. 15 (UPI) — The Soviet Union claimed today that its scientists have virtually solved the problem of building nuclear-powered rockets to propel spaceships to distant planets.

The claim came as Russia—beaming with pride over its three-man cosmic feat — spruced up Red Square to give a heroes' welcome to its cosmonauts.

The newspaper Trud said: "There are no difficulties in principle for creating such nuclear rockets. Only a certain time is required for designing, building and testing."

Trud science observer Leonid Byshko said the Soviet Union would strike for the moon in a few years and then the next target would be other planets in the solar system requiring journeys of several months or even years.

"For this purpose, new rocket carriers based on atomic energy are needed," Trud said.

The newspaper, the publication of the Soviet trade union movement, said a trip to the moon is "one of the

most immediate problems of cosmonautics."

First, however, a Soviet spaceship will fly around the moon and return to earth, Trud said.

Meanwhile, the three cosmonauts and ground scientists continued to evaluate the data they had assembled in a 24-hour 17-minute flight around the earth. The space trio made 16 orbits beginning Monday morning.