SOVIET 240MM SELF-PROPELLED HEAVY MORTAR M-1977 (TSR)
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SOVIET 240MM SELF-PROPELLED HEAVY MORTAR M-1977 (TSR)

1. (TSR) A 240mm self-propelled (SP) heavy mortar designated M-1977 has been observed deployed with heavy mortar regiments of the heavy artillery brigades at Drovyanaya (Figure 1) and Novosysoyevka in the Soviet Transbaykal and Far East Military Districts. The new heavy SP mortar is replacing the older towed 240mm mortar and provides a significant increase in the mobility of the heavy mortar regiments.

2. (TSR) Each heavy artillery brigade formerly contained 24 240mm towed mortars. 24 new heavy SP mortars were in the heavy mortar regiment area at Drovyanaya SSM Mobile Missile Barracks AL 1/Headquarters and the towed mortars had been removed. 3 new heavy SP mortars were seen near the storage sheds in the heavy mortar regiment at Novosysoyevka IRBM Launch Site 2 and no towed mortars were observed. The armored command vehicle (ACRV) M-1974 (Figure 2) has been deployed with the new SP mortar at both installations. At Drovyanaya, there was one ACRV M-1974 for each four-tube battery.

3. (TSR) The 240mm heavy SP mortar M-1977 is mounted on a modified GANEF (SA-4) missile transporter chassis. The mortar barrel

4. (TSR) The barrel of the heavy SP mortar has been observed in three positions: horizontal on the chassis (probable travel mode; Figure 3); horizontal, extending from the rear of the vehicle (probable loading position; Figure 4); and elevated, with the baseplate on the ground (probable firing position; Figure 5).

5. (S/WNINTEL) The deployment of the heavy SP mortar M-1977 has been concurrent with the deployment of a new heavy SP gun as yet undesignated to Drovyanaya and Novosysoyevka.¹ This new SP gun is replacing the older towed 203mm gun howitzer in the heavy artillery regiments. A heavy artillery regiment and a heavy mortar regiment together make up a heavy artillery brigade.
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Figure 3. Conceptual drawing of heavy SP mortar M-1977 in probable travel mode.
FIGURE 4. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF HEAVY SP MORTAR IN PROBABLE LOADING POSITION

FIGURE 5. CONCEPTUAL DRAWING OF HEAVY SP MORTAR IN PROBABLE FIRING POSITION
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