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Photographic Intelligence Memorandum

FRANZ JOSEPH LAND

S-8279

HTA/SM-5/58
15 August 1958

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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ZEMLYA FRANTSA-IOSIFA

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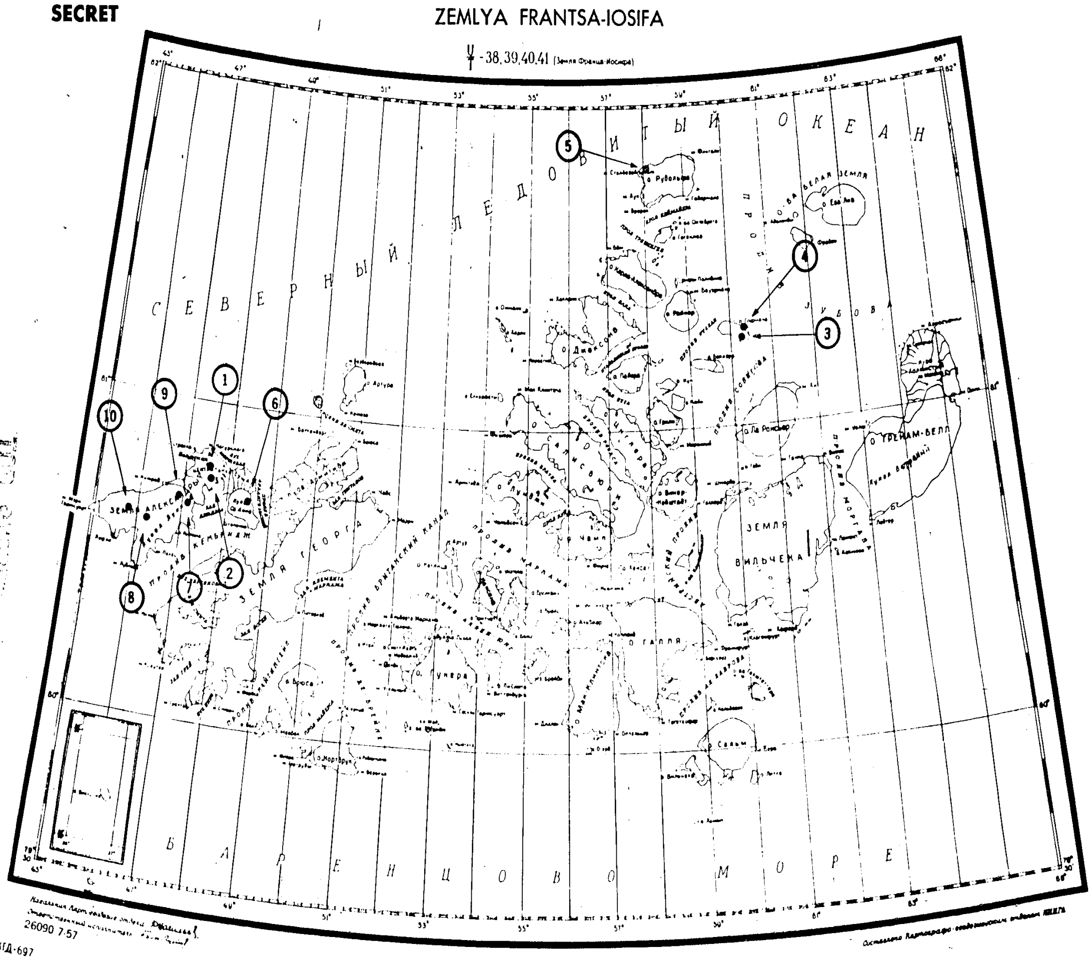

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FRANZ JOSEPH LAND

Franz Joseph Land is comprised of about 70 islands which are located in the Artic Ocean 250 miles north of Novaya Zemlya. These ice covered islands are the most northerly lands of the eastern hemisphere and are scattered in an area roughly 250 miles east-west by 150 miles north-south.

The most westerly island is Zemly Aleksandry on which is located an airfield, two polar stations and four unidentified towers. Ostrov Gofmana, located in the northeast sector of the island group, also has an airfield and a polar station. The northernmost island is Ostrov Rudolfa on which is located an air navigation directional finding station.

Franz Joseph Land was completely covered by photography on 14 April 1956 by Mission TW-13, TW-14 and TW-22. A detailed study of the photography indicated that the only activity on Franz Joseph Land is in the ten areas which are annotated on the accompanying map and described in the key to annotations.

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KEY TO ANNOTATIONS

1. NAGURSKAYA AIRFIELD (80° 48'N - 47° 24'E)
   Zemlya Aleksandry.
   Runway: 6000' x 150'; packed snow and ice.
   No aircraft noted.
   See SAC DPIR No. S266, dated 8 Nov. 1957 and DPIR Airfields A, No. 37, dated Dec. 1956 for a detailed description of the airfield.

2. NAGURSKAYA POLAR STATION (80° 46'N - 47° 26'E)
   Zemlya Aleksandry.
   Four buildings as follows:
   (1) building 45' x 40'
   (2) buildings 30' x 25'
   (1) building 35' x 30'
   A few small shelters are evident.
   One small single engine liaison type aircraft visible.

3. GOGMANA AIRFIELD (81° 16'N - 60° 20'E)
   Ostrov Gofmana.
   Runway: 11,900' x 490'; packed snow and ice.
   No aircraft noted.
   See SAC DPIR No. SP-3-57, dated 31 Dec. 1957 DPIR Airfields A, No. 33, dated Dec. 1956 for a detailed description of the airfield.

4. GOFMANA POLAR STATION (81° 18'N - 60° 22'E)
   Ostrov Gofmana.
   Six (6) buildings as follows:
   (3) buildings each 50' x 15'
   (1) building 50' x 30'
   (1) building 40' x 35'
   (1) building 40' x 15'
   Several other smaller shelters.
   One helicopter visible.
   One stick mast approximately 55' high.

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5. PROBABLE AIR NAVIGATION DIRECTIONAL FINDING STATION (81° 49'N - 58° 00'E)

Ostrov Rudolfa.

Probable Air Navigation Directional Finding Station. This facility consists of 32 approximately 15' stick masts which are arranged in a 240' diameter circle with a control building in the center. A 55' stick is also contained within the circle. Located at opposite sides of the circle are two other stick masts of approximately 65' - 70'. Within the station area are three shorter stick masts of approximately 25' - 30'. One radar and one possible radar are evident. Fourteen buildings located in an area 1000' x 1000' as follows:

(1) building	70' x 25'	
(1) building	70' x 20'	
(1) building	60' x 25'	
(2) buildings	45' x 40'	
(1) building	40' x 25'	(control building for Directional Finding Station)
(1) building	30' x 25'	
(2) buildings	30' x 20'	
(2) buildings	25' x 25'	
(2) buildings	25' x 20'	
(1) building	20' x 20'	

6. POLAR STATION (80° 42'N - 48° 30'E)

Zemlya Aleksandry.

Three small buildings and a few smaller shelters are evident and partially buried in snow. A communication tower base 600 yards from the station does not appear to hold an antenna and no other activity is apparent in the station area.

7. Tower, unidentified, 20' high (80° 43'N - 47° 06'E) Zemlya Aleksandry.

8. Tower, unidentified, 15' high (80° 37'N - 46° 08'E) Zemlya Aleksandry.

9. Tower, unidentified, 20' high (80° 44'N - 46° 51'E) Zemlya Aleksandry.

10. Tower, unidentified, 15' high (80° 38'N - 45° 43'E) Zemlya Aleksandry.

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HTA/SM-5/58

REQUIREMENT: Prepared in answer to RR/HTA/S14/58 requesting an analysis and description of all activities and facilities on the islands of Franz Joseph Land.

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REFERENCES: SAC DPIR No. S266, dated 8 Nov. 1947. 25X1
SAC DPIR No. SP-3-57, dated 31 Dec. 1957. 25X1
DPIR Airfields A, No. 37, dated Dec. 1956. 25X1
DPIR Airfields A, No. 33, dated Dec. 1956.
ATMP 11 C, 1st Ed., dated Nov 1954
ATMP 11 D, 1st ED. Revised, dated May 1954

COORDINATES: 79° 54'N to 81° 50'N
44° 00'E to 66° 00'E

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