

CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
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7 December 1973

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief,
Branch

THROUGH : Chief, OSR

THROUGH : Chief, OER

SUBJECT : Cost of Modifications of Various ICBM
Silos in the USSR

REFERENCE : Memorandum from Chief, PA/E dated
6 December 1973

1. The modification of older ICBM silos into new, much harder silos for new ICBMs is from 15 to 20 percent more expensive than would be the construction of entirely new silos on virgin land. Modification, however, is allowed within the limits of the SALT agreements while new construction is not. The modifications costed in this memorandum have been carried out at Tyuratam Missile Test Center probably to test feasibility but have not yet been done in the field. It should be noted that these "modifications" are so extensive that they are, in fact, building new silos in old silo shafts using almost none of the old silo except the excavation and in some cases the lining of the silo shaft as part of the new silo walls. The modification of old silos to accommodate new ICBMs without increasing the hardness of the silos involves very little in the way of construction and the construction costs are negligible.

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6. Costs of construction have been estimated in rubles using Soviet handbooks and the totals converted to US 1972 dollars at the ratio for heavy industrial construction of .49 rubles per dollar. Descriptions of the silos and measurements were obtained from consultations with personnel of OSR and IAS .

Worksheets supporting these estimates are maintained in the files of U/CM. For additional information on methodology used call

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