

~~TOP SECRET~~

Copy 59  
8 Pages

NPIC/B-30/61  
October 1961

APPROVED FOR  
RELEASE DATE:  
16-Jul-2011

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION BRIEF

# ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX

## VERKHNYAYA SALDA, USSR



ARMY



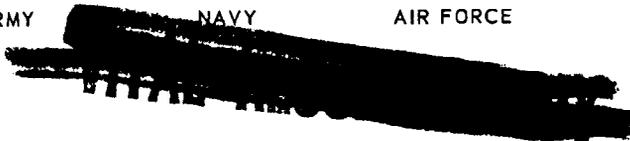
NAVY



AIR FORCE



CIA

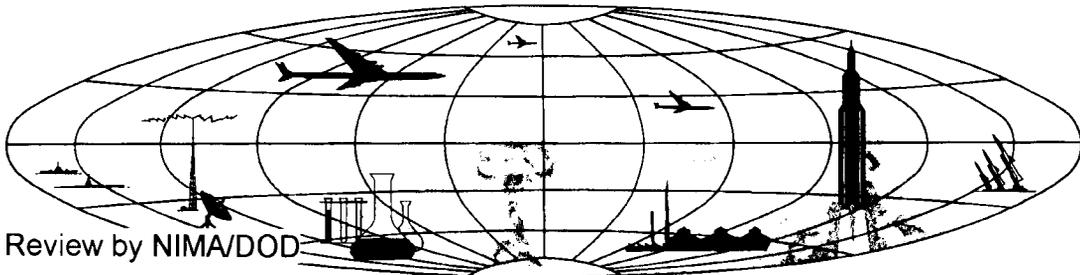


Handle Via TALENT - KEYHOLE Control Only

### WARNING

This document contains classified information affecting the national security of the United States within the meaning of the espionage laws U. S. Code Title 18, Sections 793 and 794. The law prohibits its transmission or the revelation of its contents in any manner to an unauthorized person, as well as its use in any manner prejudicial to the safety or interest of the United States or for the benefit of any foreign government to the detriment of the United States. It is to be seen only by U. S. personnel especially indoctrinated and authorized to receive TALENT-KEYHOLE information. Its security must be maintained in accordance with KEYHOLE and TALENT regulations.

NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION CENTER



Declass Review by NIMA/DOD

~~TOP SECRET~~

HR70-14

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

NPIC/B-30/61

## ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX, VERKHNYAYA SALDA, USSR

This ICBM launch complex, at which two road-served launch areas and a road- and rail-served probable complex support facility have so far been identified, is located in a forested area approximately 6 nautical miles (nm) northwest of Verkhnyaya Salda.\* It is the third deployed ICBM launch complex in the USSR identified from KEYHOLE photography. The others are near Yur'ya 1/, 2/ and Yoshkar-Ola 3/; a possible ICBM site is near Kostroma 4/ (Figure 1).

25X1

25X1

The two launch areas were initially identified on [redacted] photography (September 1961). Their locations were covered by [redacted] (July 1961), but the launch areas could not be identified because of small scale and darkness. The probable support facility is visible only on the July 1961 coverage. Cloud cover on the September photography and small scale and darkness on the July 1961 coverage preclude identification of any additional facilities at the launch complex.

In construction, the complex is in the midstage, ahead of that at the Yoshkar-Ola complex. The Yur'ya complex is considered complete, and no comparison can be made with the possible site near Kostroma.

The ICBM launch complex is situated in a heavily industrialized SAM-defended portion of the Ural Mountains (Figure 2). Two SAM sites have been identified in the vicinity of the complex. One site, identified as early as July 1959 [redacted] is 15 nm west of the complex. The other, first identified on the September 1961 photography, is 15 nm north of the complex. Both sites are probably for the defense of nearby targets as well as for the ICBM launch complex. The nearest airfield which could support operations at the complex is 8.5 nm to the southwest, near Nizhniy Tagil and has a 6,600-foot-long runway.

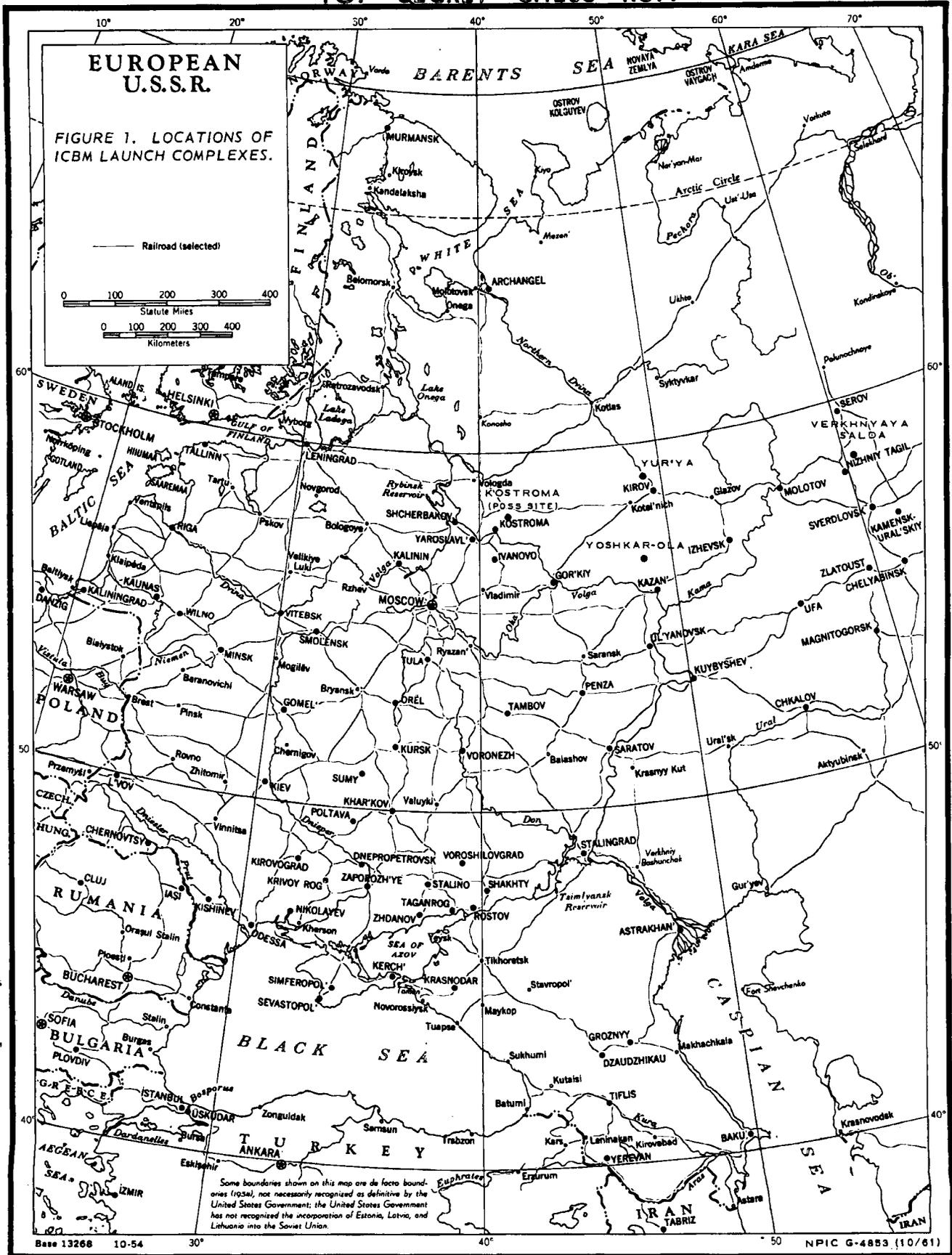
25X1

25X1

\* This complex was originally named after Yas'va [redacted] because the first launch area identified is located near Yas'va. However, since the second launch area and the probable complex support facility, which were both identified later, are nearer to Verkhnyaya Salda than to Yas'va, it has been deemed appropriate to change the name.

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~



~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

NPIC/B-30/61

The area of the Verkhnyaya Salda ICBM launch complex was covered by the photography of  July 1959. The only activity observed was a rail spur under construction leading north from the Nizhniy Tagil/Verkhnyaya Salda rail line at a point 13 nm east-northeast of Nizhniy Tagil. The spur apparently terminates near the area of the probable support facility, which is faintly visible on the July 1961 photography. Also visible in July 1961, but not identifiable, were the locations of the two launch areas (A and B). In addition, this photography shows a road (new since 1959) which leads north from the main Nizhniy Tagil/Verkhnyaya Salda road, runs through the probable support facility, and continues north-northeast for approximately 10 nm. About 5 nm from where the road leaves the main road, a branch runs west-northwest and serves the two launch areas (Figure 3). On the basis of the ICBM Complex at Yur'ya, two other launch areas are probably located along the northern extension of the launch complex service road.

#### Launch Area A

Launch Area A (58-09N 60-16E) is 2.5 nm east-southeast of Yas'va. This launch area, which is in the midstage of construction, is road served and enclosed by a seven-sided fence (Figure 4). The fenced area measures approximately 2,100 by 1,800 feet overall and covers about 85 acres. A second fence is under construction along the southeast side. In size and configuration, the loop-road system and the clearings for the two launch pads are similar to those at two of the four Yur'ya launch areas (Areas C and D) and at the Yoshkar-Ola launch area, the launch area at Complex C, Tyura Tam, and the possible site near Kostroma. Pad size cannot be determined because of scarring and piles of dirt and construction materials. A shallow excavation, whose dimensions cannot be determined, appears to be located near the middle of the right pad area. This excavation may correspond to that beneath the pad at Launch Site 1-C, Complex C, Tyura Tam. 5/, 6/ No vehicle stalls can be identified at either pad area.

- 3 -

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

25X9

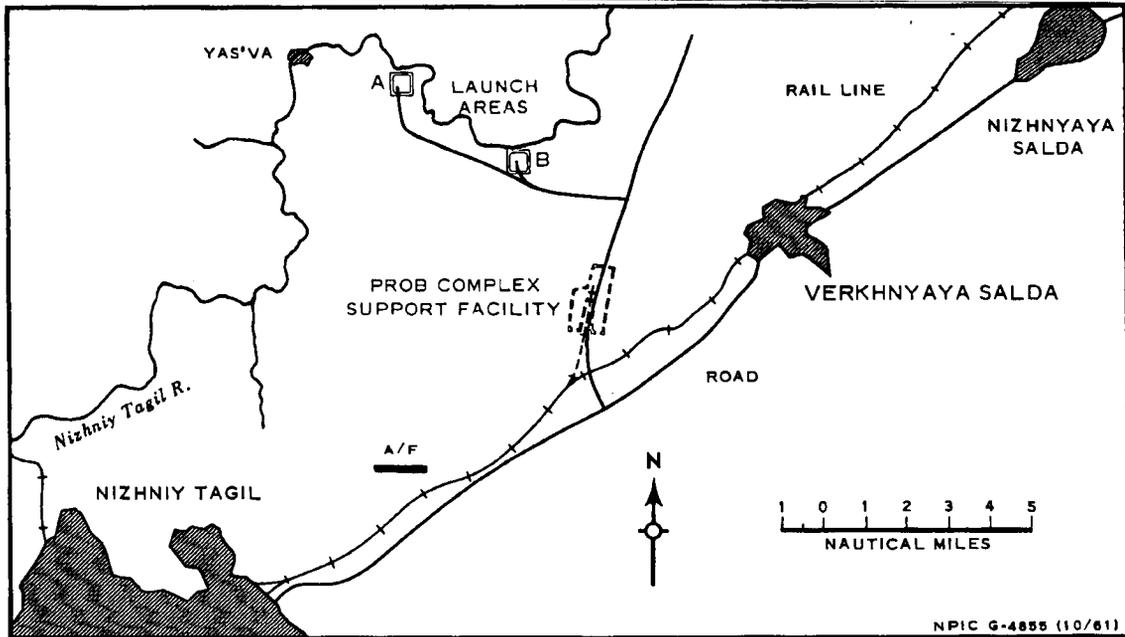
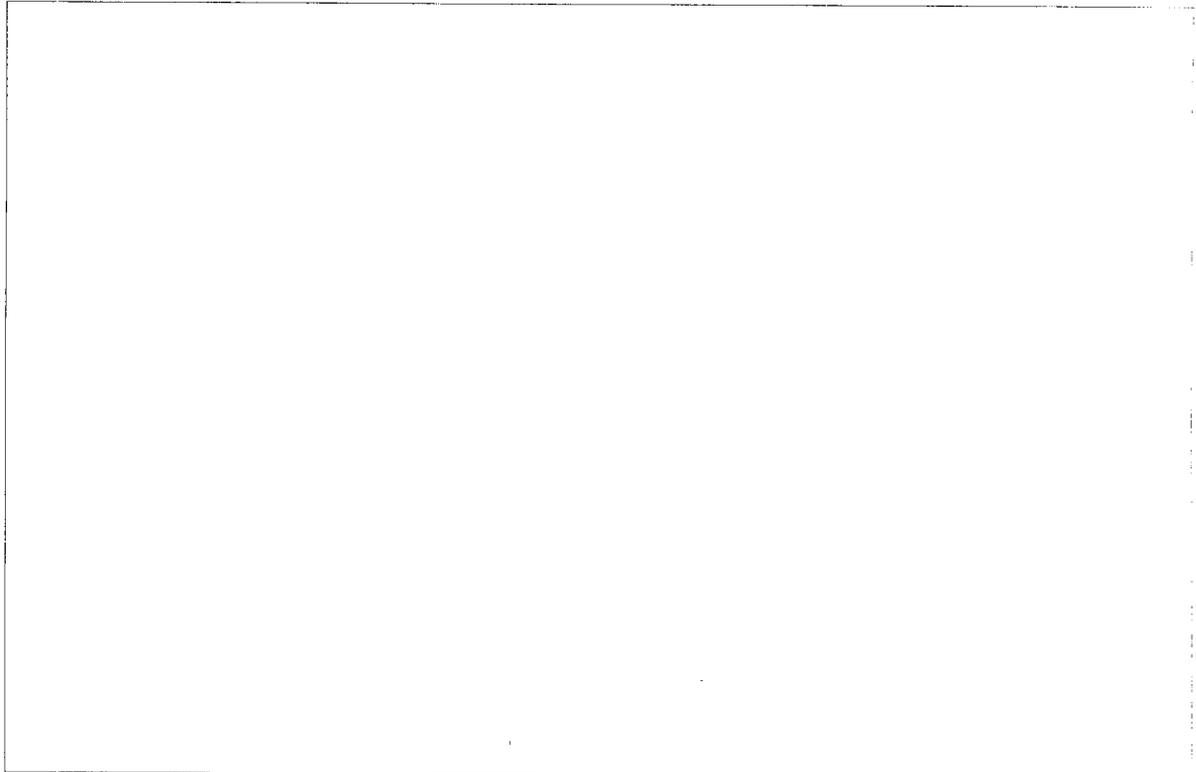
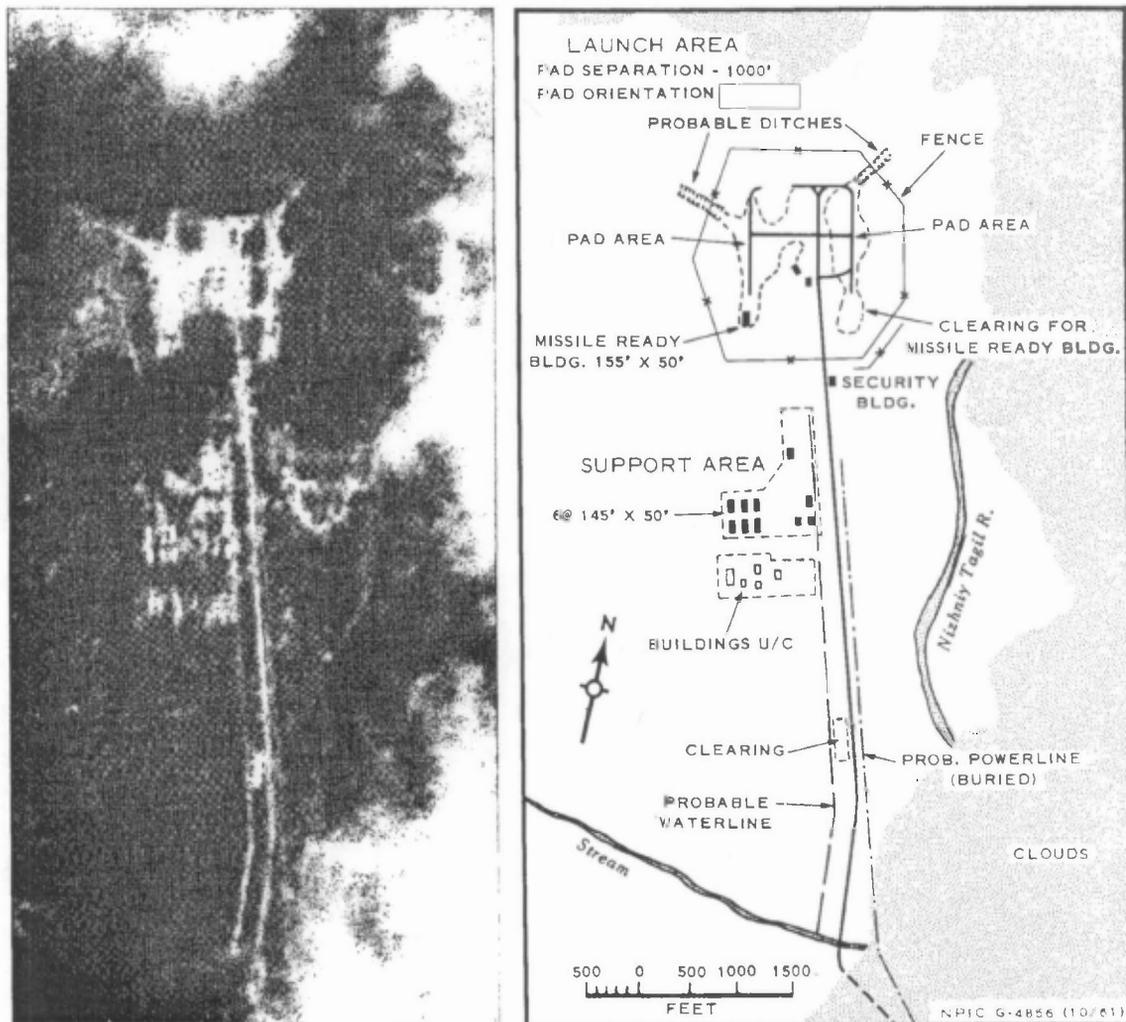


FIGURE 3. IDENTIFIED COMPONENTS OF THE ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX. Construction began in mid-1959.

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

NPIC/B-30/61



25X1

FIGURE 4. LAUNCH AREA A (September 1961).

25X1

Although the grading for the loop-road system is not complete, enough of the pattern is visible to indicate a pad orientation of approximately  degrees and a pad separation of 1,000 feet. The road between the pads and parallel to the long axis of the pads is not centered but offset to the east. A similar offsetting, in either direction, is evident at the two other deployed ICBM complexes. A narrow path or ditch extends between the approximate centers of the pads. A corresponding line is evident at the

- 5 -

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

NPIC/B-30/61

launch areas at Yur'ya and the possible site at Kostroma. If this is a ditch, it could eventually contain buried cables from a centrally located control building. Either of the two small structures near the center of the launch area could be a control building. At least one small structure in the same approximate location as these two structures can be identified at the Yur'ya launch areas. The same arrangement of ditches and the control bunker is also evidenced at Complex C, Tyura Tam.

A probable ditch leads from each of the two pad areas to a point beyond the fence line in the direction of the natural drainage system. Behind one pad area is a missile ready building measuring 155 by 50 feet. A clearing for a missile ready building has been prepared behind the other pad area.

A support area for launch personnel, containing at least ten completed buildings and four under construction, is located about 2,500 feet south of the launch area. Six of the ten completed structures are barracks-type buildings measuring 145 by 50 feet. If these six are one-story structures and if 150 square feet is allotted per man, together they could accommodate about 290 men. A buried probable power line and a probable water line leading from a small stream to the south parallel the access road to the launch area. The water line appears to terminate at the personnel support area.

#### Launch Area B

Launch Area B (58-06N 60-22E) is 21,200 feet southeast of Launch Area A. It is about 75 percent cloud covered. Part of the loop-road system and the pad to the west are visible. This visible portion appears to be more nearly complete than its counterpart at Launch Area A. From what can be seen of the loop-road system, a pad orientation of approximately  degrees is indicated.

25X1

- 6 -

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

NPIC/B-30/61

Probable Complex Support Facility

The probable complex support facility (58-03N 60-25E) consists of two large clearings, one on each side of the complex service road and each measuring approximately 6,000 by 1,000 feet. Darkness and small scale preclude further interpretation.

- 7 -

~~TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF~~

## TOP SECRET CHESS RUFF

NPIC/B-30/61

## REFERENCES

## PHOTOGRAPHY

<u>Mission</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Classification</u>
	Jul 59	TSC
	Jul 61	TSR
	Sep 61	TSR

## CHARTS

SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0156-13A, 2d ed, Oct 59, scale 1:200,000 (S)

ACIC. ONC D-4 (Kamskoye Reservoir), 2d ed, Aug 58, scale 1:1,000,000 (C)

## DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-1/61 ICBM Launch Complex, Yur'ya, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
2. NPIC. B-21/61 Operational Support Analysis, ICBM Launch Complex, Yur'ya, USSR, Aug 61 (TSCR)
3. NPIC. R-2/61 ICBM Launch Complex, Yoshkar-Ola, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
4. NPIC. B-18/61 Possible ICBM Launch Site Near Kostroma, USSR, Aug 61 (TSCR)
5. CIA. PIC/JR-17/60, New Launch Area and Other Developments, Missile Launching Complex, Tyura Tam, USSR, Jul 60 (TSC)
6. NPIC. PIC/JR-8/61 Tyura Tam Missile Test Center, USSR, A Comparison of 1957, 1959, and 1960 Photography, Aug 61 (TSCR)

## REQUIREMENT

CIA. DDI/RR/E/R-50/61 (TSR)