

Page Denied

Next 1 Page(s) In Document Denied

National
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Center

Top Secret RUFF

11 AUGUST 1978

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IMAGERY INFORMATION REPORT

PROBABLE SS-17 MODIFICATION/FOLLOW-ON LOAD TEST SIMULATION ACTIVITY, BRYANSK, USSR (TSR)

(TSR) An unidentified canvas-covered transporter was observed at the entrance to the covered SS-17 load test platform at Bryansk Road Machinery and Guided Missile Support Equipment Plant I, USSR, on imagery of [redacted]. The presence there of this transporter provides additional evidence of SS-17 modification/follow-on research and development (R&D). SS-17-related equipment has not been seen at the plant since April 1976 when an SS-17 load simulator was observed in the load test yard. [redacted]

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(TSR) The design, prototype production, and testing of missile transporters are carried out at Bryansk Plant I. A missile transporter at Bryansk Plant I involved in load simulation testing suggests that the transporter is associated with a new or modified missile system. The load test platform is used to simulate transfer of a missile from the transporter to a missile erector for silo loading.

(TSR) Bryansk Plant I is the third installation where imagery-derived evidence of SS-17 modification/follow-on R&D has been seen. At Dnepropetrovsk Missile Development and Production Center [redacted] test stands 3 and 4 at the rocket engine test facility have undergone recent modification. SS-17 upper-stage engines were tested at these test stands. At the Pavlograd Solid Motor Test Facility [redacted] a high level of activity was recently observed at the SS-17 upward-firing test position. The upward-firing test position is used to test launch-assist devices for cold-launch missile systems.

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(S) Comments and queries regarding this report are welcome. They may be directed to [redacted] Soviet Strategic Forces Division, Imagery Exploitation Group, NPIC, [redacted] green extension [redacted].

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