

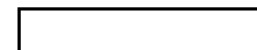
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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



SEARCH FOR HELICOPTER
PADS AT MRBM AND IRBM
LAUNCH AREAS
USSR

Declass Review by NIMA / DoD



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FEBRUARY 1966

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SEARCH FOR HELICOPTER PADS AT MRBM AND IRBM LAUNCH AREAS, USSR

This report is issued in response to NSA requirement [redacted] which requested an examination of pertinent photography to determine what MRBM/IRBM launch areas are equipped with helicopter pads, whether helicopters have been noted at these pads, and construction timing of the pads. This report supersedes NPIC report R-20/63 of March 1963, 1/ which reported the presence of helicopter pads at 5 launch areas.

A complete reexamination of all 188 launch areas and the 1 launch facility on available photography from [redacted] Missions [redacted]

[redacted] revealed no identifiable helicopter landing pads at any MRBM or IRBM launch area or facility. The earlier identification of helicopter pads at 5 launch areas was based on [redacted] and previous missions; subsequent photography of improved quality and scale revealed the reported pads to have been early construction for settling basins for the launch area sewage systems. These basins have been identified on recent photography at a large number of the launch areas.

Although no helicopter landing pads have been identified at any launch areas, areas suitable for helicopter landings exist at or near many launch areas, if it is assumed that helicopters need only cleared areas with little or no preparation.

In common with most other military forces, the Soviet forces provide facilities for athletic training/recreation at practically every military installation. At MRBM and IRBM sites, such facilities normally consist of a soccer field with a

surrounding track; obstacle courses are also present at a number of installations. While soccer fields vary in size, few are less than 90 by 40 meters (approximately 295 by 131 feet), which is more than ample for helicopter landings.

The proximity of airfields to launch areas has also been reviewed during the study for this report. Fifty-six of the launch complexes and the launch facility have airfields of various types within 20 nautical miles (nm); 46 of these have airfields within 10 nm. A number of the airfields appear to be used primarily for support of the launch complexes, for example, those near the following launch areas: Dyatlovo Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Dyatlovo Launch Site), Jonava Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Karmelava Launch Site), Novosysoyevka Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Novosysoyevka Launch Site 1), Sary Ozek Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Kara Babau Launch Site 1), Kurgancha Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Kurgancha Launch Site 2), Smorgon Launch Area No 1 (TDI name: Smorgon Launch Site 1), and Zagare Launch Area No 2 (TDI name: Zagare Launch Site 2). The airfields are maintained, but generally do not appear to have assigned tactical units, nor do they have normal support and servicing facilities. Similar airfields exist in the vicinity of a number of other complexes.

During the review of photography, facilities having undetermined functions and suitable for helicopter operations were observed at 8 launch areas. These facilities are shown in Figures 1 through 8, and a brief description accompanies each.

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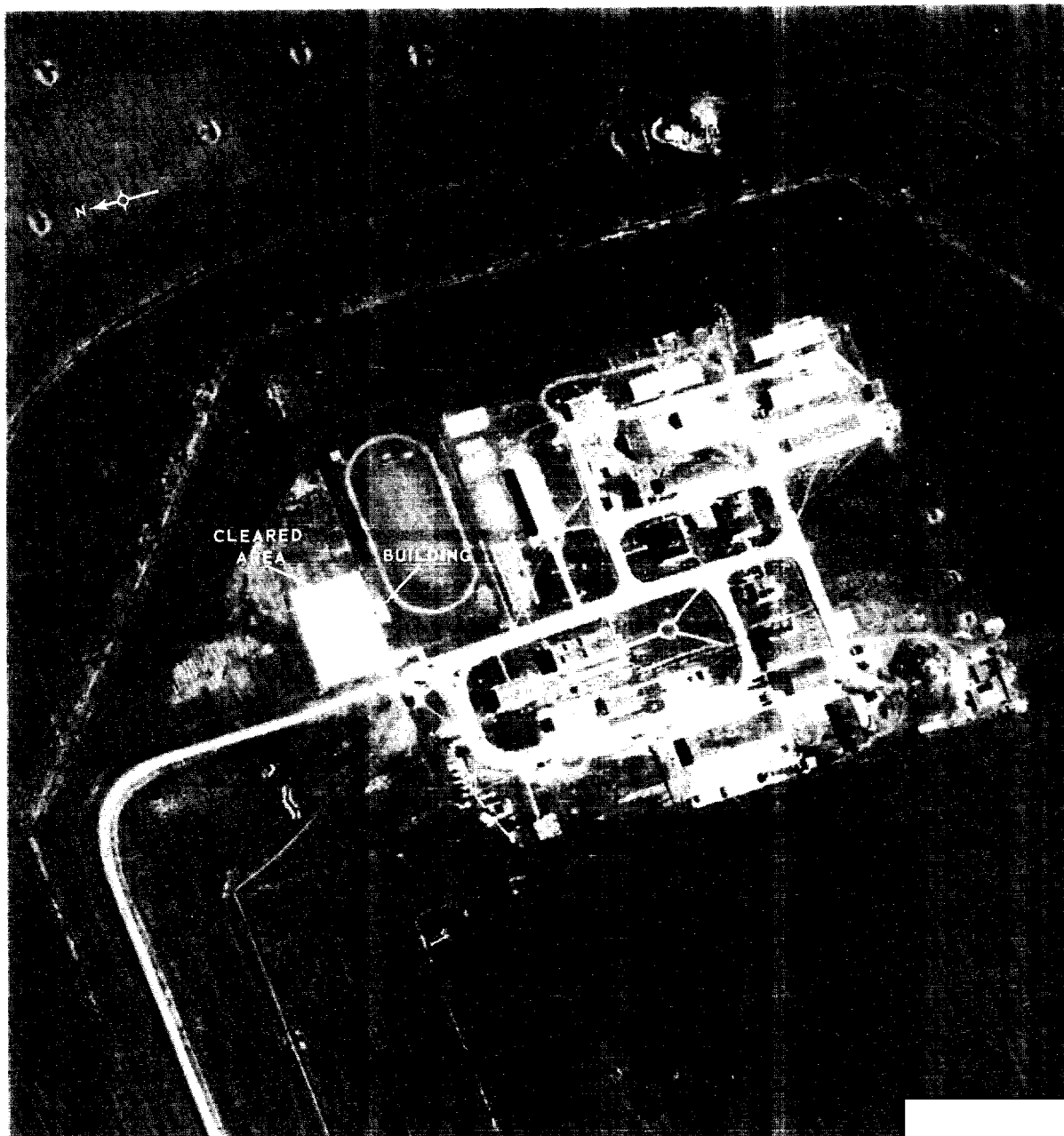


FIGURE 1. PERVOMAYSK LAUNCH AREA NO 2 (TDI NAME: SEMENOVKA LAUNCH SITE)

A rectangular cleared area measuring 210 by 165 feet and containing an outlined rectangle approximately [redacted] was constructed immediately north of the existing soccer field and track between [redacted] and possibly as early as [redacted]. A small building is located at the middle of the south edge of the area; adjacent to the building is a small pole, which could conceivably be a small stick mast or a support for a wind sock. There is no evidence to indicate the cleared area is for helicopter usage, although it is large enough, as is the adjoining soccer field.

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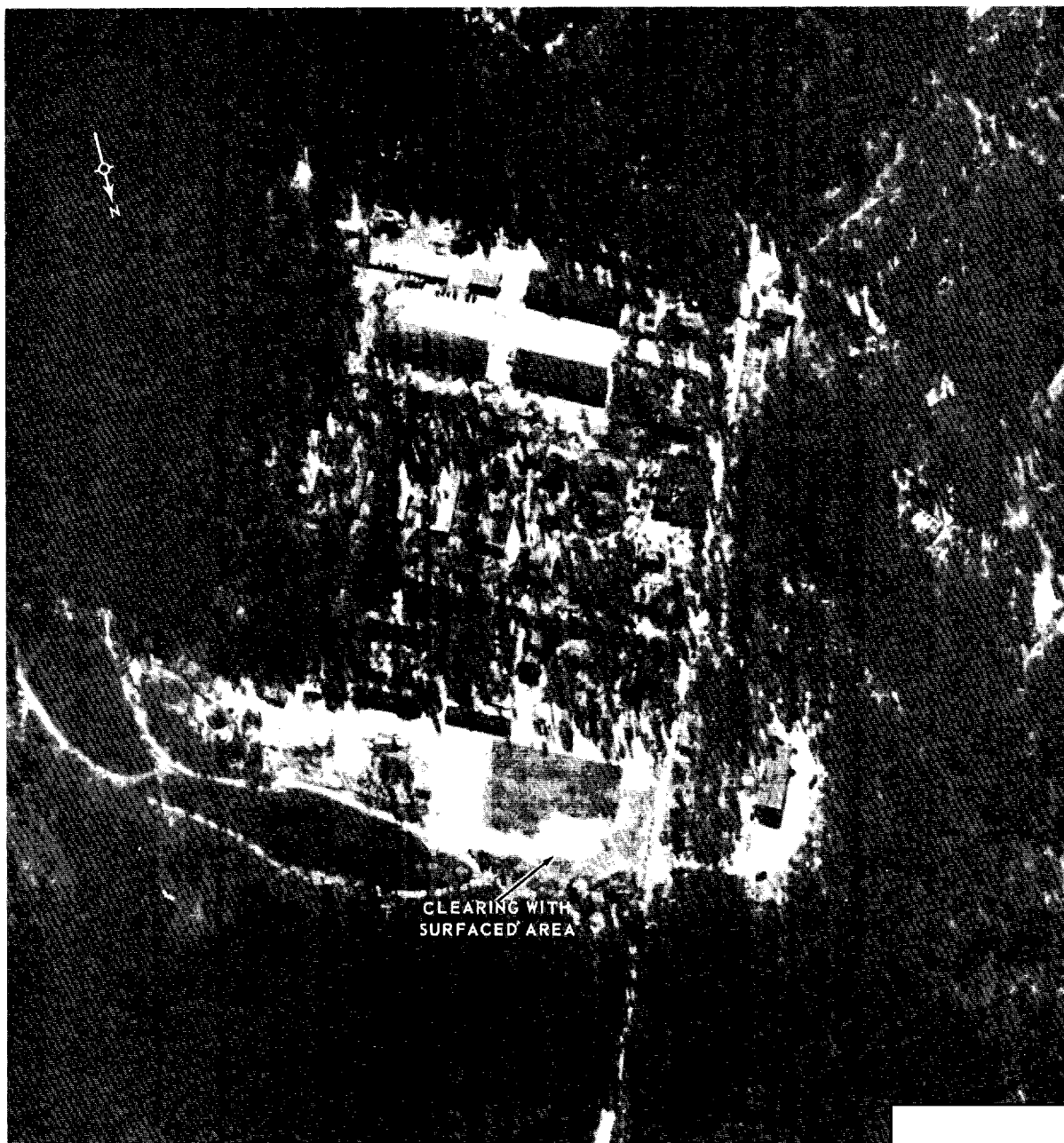


FIGURE 2. GOMEL LAUNCH AREA NO 1 (TDI NAME: BORKHOV LAUNCH SITE 1).

An area on the north edge of the site support facility was cleared and leveled between [redacted] and surfacing of an indeterminate type was begun by [redacted] the surfacing was approximately 75% complete, although little progress has been apparent through [redacted]. The completed size of the surfaced area would be approximately 295 by 200 feet. As the launch area has no athletic/soccer field, the rectangular area may function as such. It is of sufficient size to provide a helicopter landing facility.

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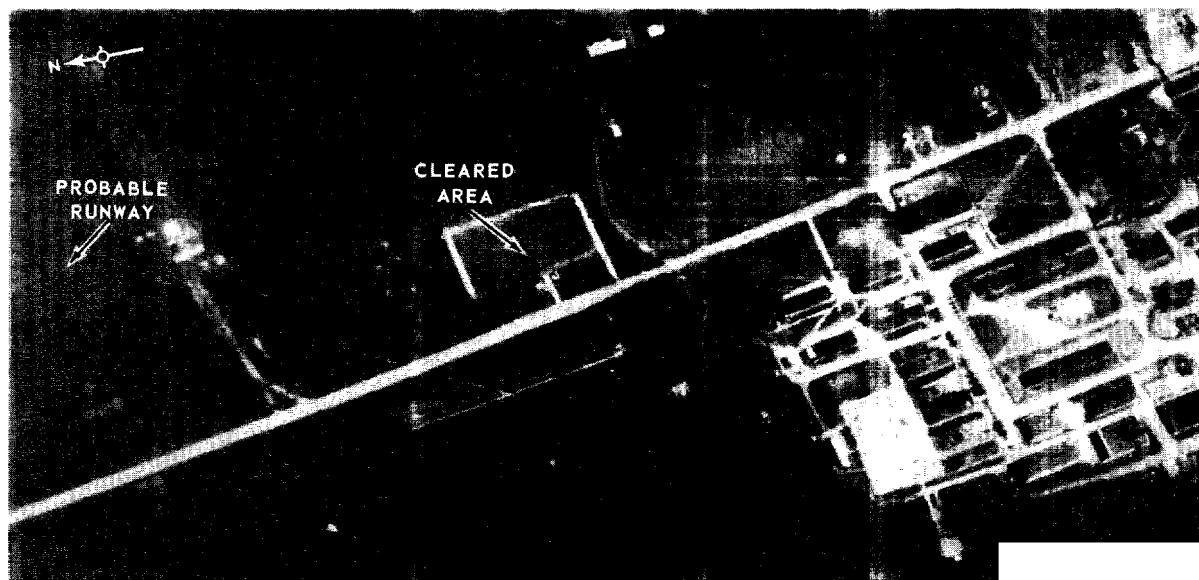


FIGURE 3. BARANO-ORENBURGSKOYE LAUNCH AREA NO 1 (TDI NAME: SOFIYE-ALEKSEYEVSKOYE LAUNCH SITE).

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Prior to [redacted] a rectangular cleared area approximately 195 by 130 feet was graded and outlined immediately north of an existing athletic field. Evidence of snow being cleared from the area was apparent in [redacted] suggesting its use as a skating rink or other training/athletic field. It is large enough for helicopter usage, as is the soccer field to the south and the small probable runway to the north.

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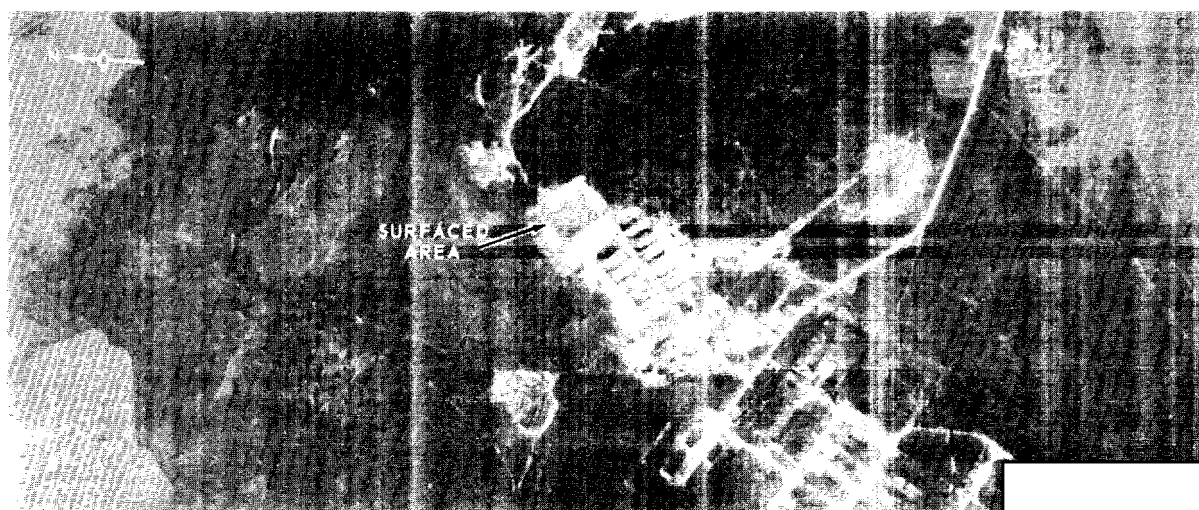


FIGURE 4. OSTROV LAUNCH AREA NO 2 (TDI NAME: SHEVELEVO MRBM LAUNCH SITE).

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An area at the northeast corner of the support facility was cleared after [redacted] and apparently hard surfaced prior to [redacted]. The surfaced area measures approximately [redacted] feet. This area appears to be a soccer field; this is indicated by the addition by late [redacted] of a probable track around the area. The area is large enough for helicopter landings.

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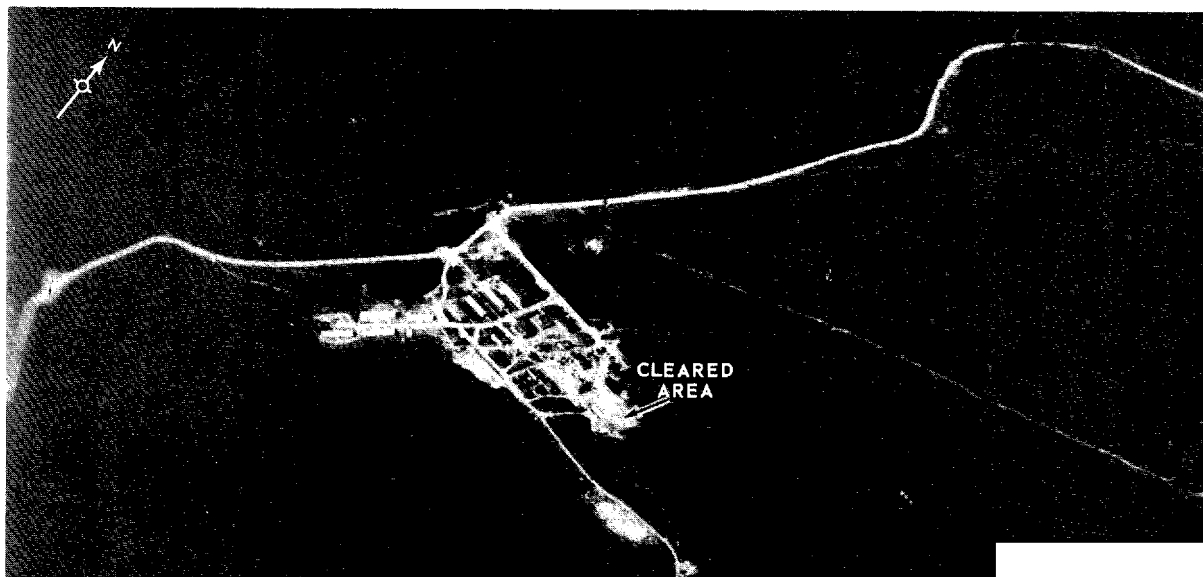


FIGURE 5. MAYKOP LAUNCH AREA NO 2 (TDI NAME: SHIRVANSKAYA MRBM LAUNCH

Clearing was begun northeast of the site support facility after [redacted]. The cleared area is approximately 235 by 125 feet. Its function is not apparent on photography [redacted] however, the area is probably not an athletic field since one already exists near the facility. The area possibly may be used for vehicle shed/garage construction.

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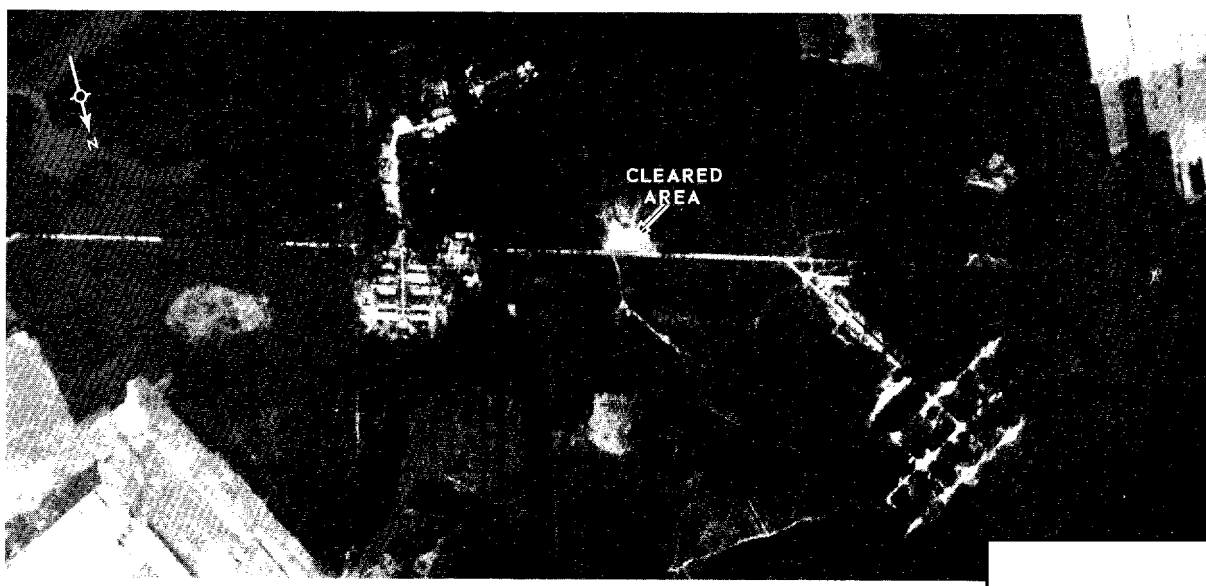


FIGURE 6. VSELYUB LAUNCH AREA NO 1 (TDI NAME: VSELYUB MRBM LAUNCH SITE 1).

A cleared area of unknown function has been visible since [redacted] along the south side of the launch area service road between the launch site and the site support facility. The area is approximately 330 by 150 feet, which is ample for an athletic/soccer field, as well as for helicopter operations.

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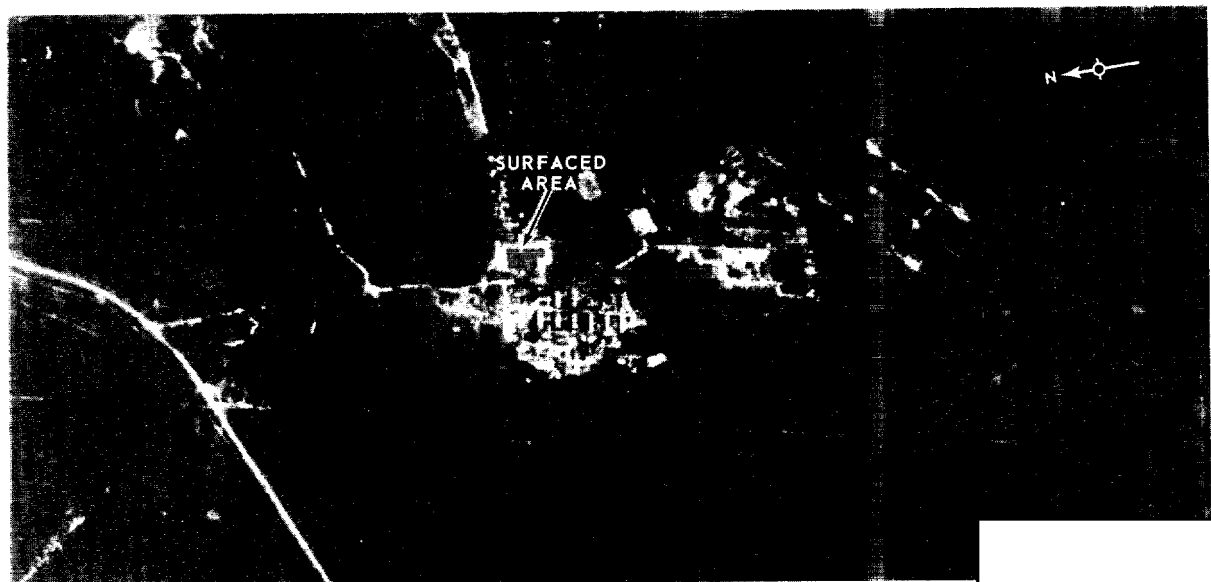


FIGURE 7. KONKOVICH LAUNCH AREA NO 1 (TDI NAME: PETRIKOV MRBM LAUNCH SITE).

An area approximately [] feet was prepared east of the service road near the site support facility in []. Surfacing was begun after [] appeared about 85% complete. A small structure is visible on the west edge of the area. The area is of ample size for an athletic/soccer field, as well as for helicopter operations.

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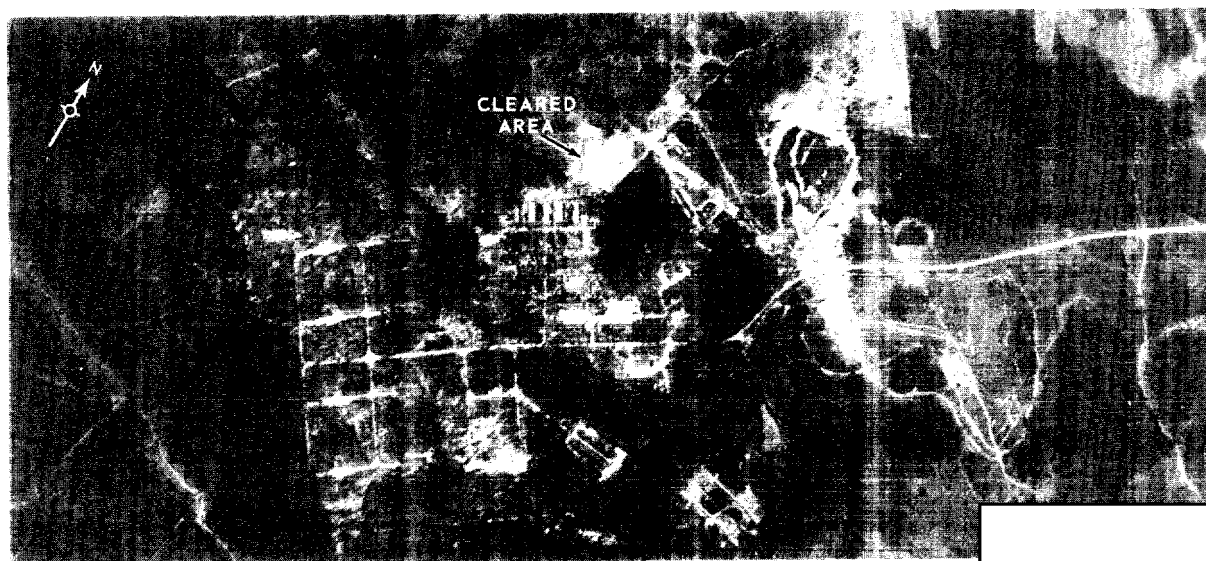


FIGURE 8. BREST LAUNCH AREA NO 2 (TDI NAME: BREST MRBM LAUNCH SITE 1).

A rectangular cleared area approximately [] feet is located immediately north of the site support facility. Clearing and leveling of the area began after the first week of [] and were apparently complete prior to []. Surfacing was started before [] when it appeared about 20% complete. The area is of ample size for an athletic/soccer field, as well as for helicopter operations.

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REFERENCES

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PHOTOGRAPHY



DOCUMENT

1. NPIC. R-20/63, *Helicopter Pads at Soviet MRBM Sites*, Mar 63 (TOP SECRET

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REQUIREMENT

NSA. P0432/R111-65

NPIC PROJECT

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