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**PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**DOMBAROVSKIY ICBM COMPLEX
LAUNCH GROUP A, USSR**



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SEPTEMBER 1973

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IDENTIFICATION OF ACTIVITY NAME					COUNTRY	
Dombarovskiy ICBM Complex Launch Group A					UR	
TYPE OF ACTIVITY	GEOGRAPHIC COORDINATES	CITY/LOC	REF NUMBER	COMPLEX NO	INSTRUC	
NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	
LITERATURE REFERENCE						
SAC. USATC, Series 200, Sheet M0236-10HL, 4th ed, Jul 65, scale 1:200,000 (SECRET) []						
[]						
LITERATURE CITED			RESTRICTED INFORMATION			
[]			NA			

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ABSTRACT

1. Of the 26 type III F launch sites under construction at five SS-9 complexes, the six sites at the Dombarovskiy ICBM Complex launch group A are the most advanced in construction. Additionally, it is the only deployed type III F launch group to have a type III X site and to have formerly completed type III C launch sites undergoing conversion to the type III F launch sites. This report describes the current status of the launch group and related activity.

2. Current construction activity in launch group A at the Dombarovskiy ICBM Complex indicates that when completed the group will consist of 11 sites (one type III X and ten type III F). [] this group consisted of one type III X site and six type III F launch sites under construction and four completed type III C launch sites. The number of silo doors and other silo construction materials in the receiving area [] indicated that at least two of the remaining four completed type III C launch sites will be converted to the more hardened type III F launch site.

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3. Included are a map showing the layout of the launch group and three annotated photographs showing the more significant construction details.

INTRODUCTION

4. The Dombarovskiy ICBM Complex is approximately 45 nautical miles (nm) east of the city of Orsk in the southern Urals region. The complex currently consists of nine completed SS-9 launch groups (each group consists of six type III C launch sites) and a tenth group, launch group A.

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5. Launch group A, 5 nm west of the complex rail-to-road transfer point, is the oldest launch group at this complex and was completed by August 1966 (Figure 1). No changes were noted in the group until December 1970, when construction began for new sites within or near this launch group. By March 1971 five launch sites, designated type IIIF, were under construction. The pace of construction for these five sites was very slow until November 1972, when construction was apparently halted. A resumption of construction activity was observed [redacted] In addition, the beginning of a program to convert the formerly completed type IIIC launch sites to the more hardened type IIIF site had been started by April.

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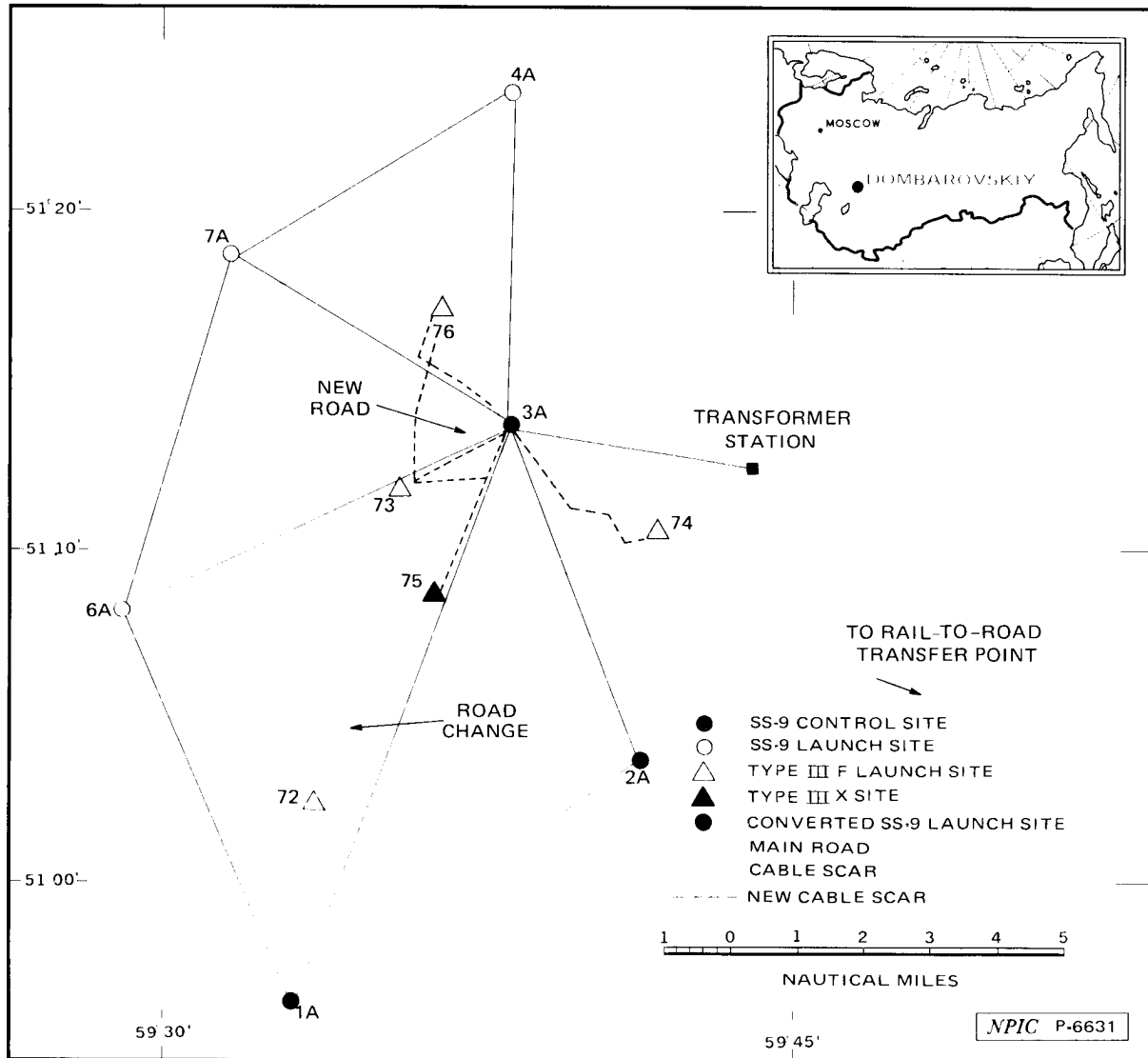


FIGURE 1. LAYOUT OF LAUNCH GROUP A, DOMBAROVSKIY ICBM COMPLEX

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BASIC DESCRIPTION

6. Launch group A currently consists of 11 sites: one type III X, six type III F, and four type III C. The type III X site, site 75, was originally identified as a type III F launch site under construction in December 1970, but was redesignated in March 1973 when construction activity, unique to type III X construction, was identified. Four of the six type III F launch sites (sites 72-74 and 76) were identified under construction by May 1971. The other two, sites 1A and 2A, were formerly completed type III C launch sites but were recently redesignated as type III Fs when conversion activity was identified. Based on observed activity, at least two and most likely all four of the completed type III C launch sites in this group also will be converted to the type III F site.

Type III X Site Construction Activity

7. Site 75 could be confirmed as a type III X site [redacted] when a type III X door and door housing ring were on the silo apron and a rectangular subsurface building was under construction perpendicular to the silo apron. This building is similar in size (125 by 20 feet) and appearance to a building at the type III X sites at the Derazhnyia and Pervomaysk SSM complexes and at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center.

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8. Construction at site 75 progressed slowly in the early stages, with the insertion of at least four silo wall segments into the site [redacted]. Two of these segments appeared to be 30 feet high, while the other two were 20 feet high. A fifth segment was not seen at this site, although five segments were installed in the type III X sites at the Derazhnyia and Pervomaysk SSM complexes. After the insertion of the segments no external construction at this site was observed [redacted]. At that time a silo door and door housing were on the silo apron. When observed [redacted] the silo door and door housing ring had been moved to a position under the bridge crane and the rectangular subsurface building was partially roofed (Figure 2).

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Type III F Launch Site Construction Activity

9. Six type III F launch sites are currently under construction within the launch group. Four of these sites, 72-74, and 76, were identified by May 1971. The other two sites, 1A and 2A, both completed type III C sites, were recently redesignated when conversion activity was identified.

10. Construction had progressed slowly at the original four launch sites (sites 72-74, and 76) until April 1973. Five silo wall segments had been installed in the silo at sites 72, 73, and 76 [redacted], while only four segments were seen at the

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fourth site, 74. [redacted] five circular stains--probably from segments--were observed on the apron, indicating that five segments had been installed in the silo.

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11. No construction activity and only little vehicular activity were observed at launch sites 72, 73, and 74 after July 1972 and after August 1972 at launch site 76 until construction resumed in April 1973 [redacted] type IIF doors, door housings, and foundations for two site support buildings were observed at all four sites.

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12. Additionally, a possible shock isolation component (or launch stand) [redacted] [redacted] 10-foot inner diameter was observed at launch site 74 (Figure 3). This component is the first indicator of possible shock isolation within the type IIF launch sites.

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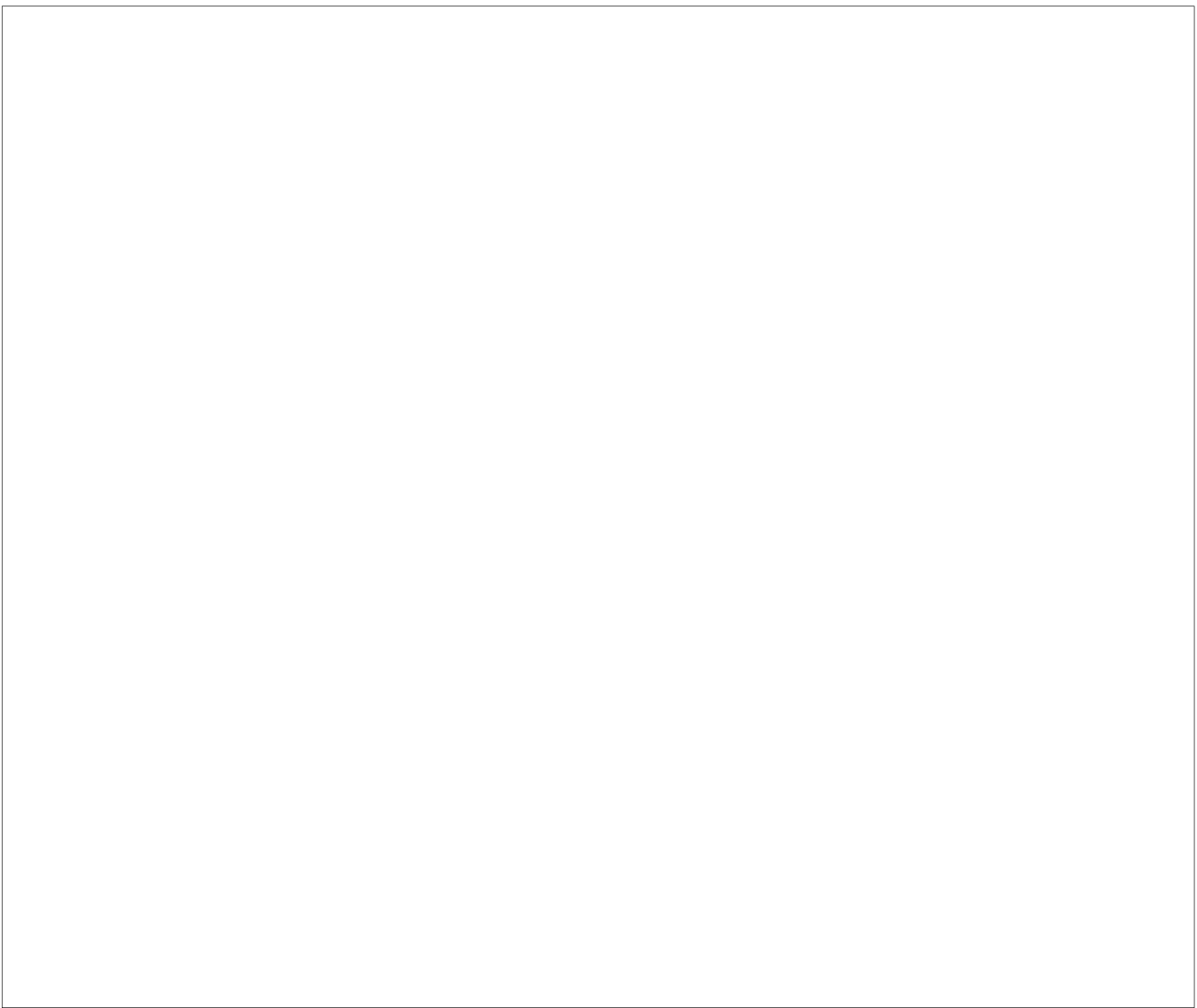
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13. New construction activity was observed at completed SS-9 launch sites 1A and 2A [redacted] This activity can now be identified as the beginning of a program to convert some of the type IIIC launch sites to the more hardened type IIIF launch sites. At these two sites all type IIIC silo components including the silo door, silo liner, headworks, and personnel access were removed. The paving blocks were removed from the silo apron, the apron was widened and regraded, and new paving blocks were installed.

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14. Type IIIF launch site construction materials were first seen at site 2A [redacted] [redacted], when the bridge crane was assembled and two silo wall segments were under construction on the apron (Figure 4). Launch site 1A was still being dismantled when observed [redacted]

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Related Activity

15. New construction activity first observed [redacted] at SS-9 launch group control site 3A indicates an increased group support role for this site. Two buildings have been started near the group support area. One building [redacted] and [redacted] was next to one of the two original group support buildings, while the other building [redacted] [redacted] was approximately 300 feet further south.

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16. Another area of new construction was approximately 400 feet south of launch site 3A. This area consisted of one semipermanent building [redacted] under construction, and foundations for two more buildings. A small support camp was nearby with nine small buildings and eight tents.

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17. New cable trenches have been identified in the group connecting three of the type III F launch sites and the type III X site to SS-9 control site 3A. This indicates that control site 3A will at least have a portion of the group control responsibilities.

18. A large number of silo components were in the receiving area of the complex support facilities [redacted] There were four type III F silo doors, components for at least four type III F silo door housings, two type III X headworks components, and a large amount of unidentified materials. This material confirms that at least two of the remaining four completed SS-9 launch sites will be converted to the type III F launch site. The other two complete SS-9 launch sites also are expected to be converted.

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REFERENCES

[redacted]

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REQUIREMENT

COMIREX A08
Project 143382NG

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