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NPIC/B-41/61

LAUNCH AREA B, ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX,
YOSHKAR-OLA, USSR

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Launch Area B, first observed on October 1961 photography (KEYHOLE ) is the second road-served launch area identified at the Yoshkar-Ola ICBM Launch Complex (Figure 1). The complex was initially identified on June 1961 photography (Mission 9017). 1/ At that time there was no evidence of this second launch area. It is significant that the features which permit identification of an ICBM launch area can be constructed in 4 months or less.


Launch Area B, under construction (Figure 2, item 1), is located at 56-34N 48-16E, 28,880 feet -- 4.7 nautical miles (nm) -- east of Launch Area A. This separation is consistent with that between launch areas at other deployed ICBM launch complexes. 2/ 3/ Also, the launch area conforms to the same basic configuration as noted at other deployed ICBM launch areas. The distance between launch pad areas is about 1,000 feet, the orientation is approximately 335 degrees, or the same as that of Launch Area A, and the clearings for probable missile-ready buildings are visible. However, poor image quality and the early stage of construction preclude the identification of individual items.

About 2,650 feet behind the launch area is a road-served cleared area (item 2) measuring approximately 550 by 350 feet and containing a road forming a rectangular pattern. A structure, probably a drive-through building, straddles a sector of this road. No accurate measurements of this structure are possible, but its estimated size is 200 by 50 feet. This road-served cleared area may be associated with the handling of re-entry vehicles or nuclear weapons.

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 Cloud cover and darkness prohibit observation of any similar patterns that may be present at the other three launch areas. Although small scale and darkness preclude

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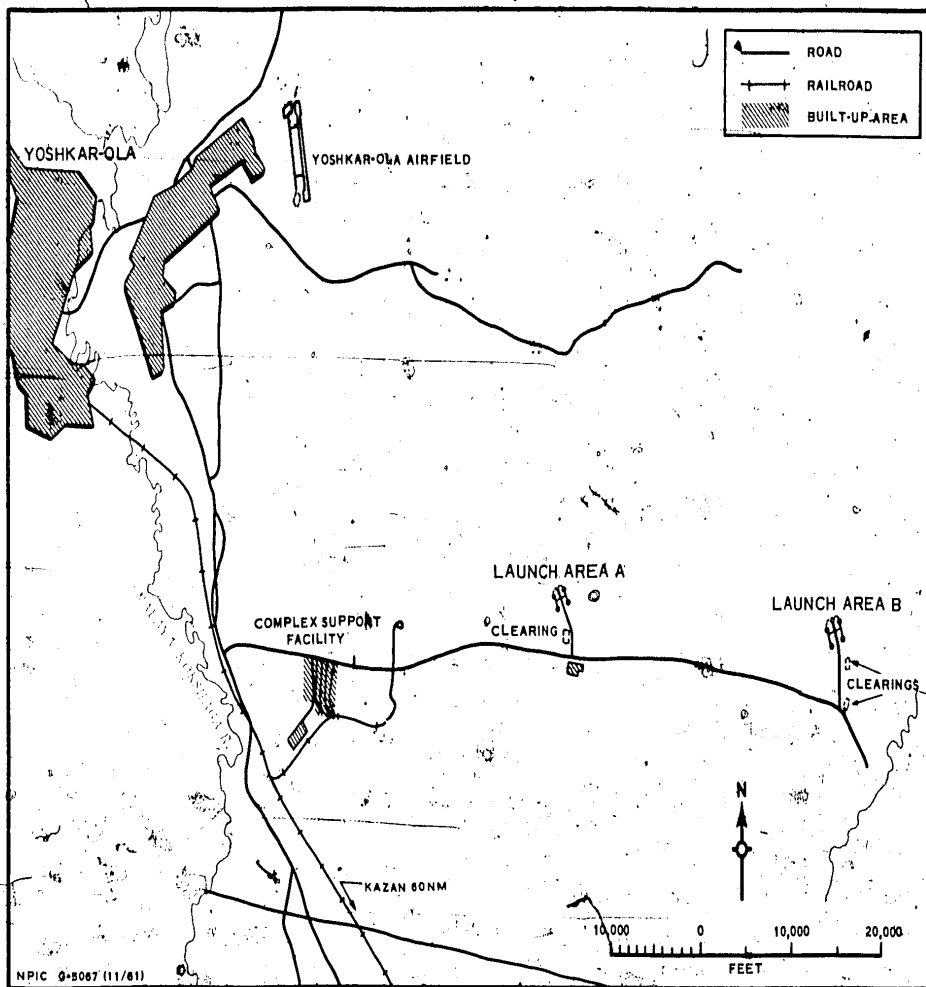


FIGURE 1. YOSHKAR-OLA ICBM LAUNCH COMPLEX. Red shows construction between June 1961 and October 1961.

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detailed interpretation of the six areas with such a clearing, the clearing associated with Launch Area B at Yoshkar-Ola is the only one in which a structure is apparent.

Another large cleared area (item 3), located near the junction of the launch area access road with the main road serving the complex, is probably the launch support area under construction. From this junction a road extends southeastward for about 4,000 feet. This road is a strong indication that additional launch areas are planned in this direction.

A study of the Complex Support Facility reveals the construction of approximately 15 buildings and of additional clearings since June 1961. Additional clearings are apparent at Launch Area A also, but no buildings can be identified.

Approximately 12 small clearings, irregularly spaced and shaped, are located along the main road serving the complex. Between Launch Area A and the Complex Support Facility, an unimproved road extends from a scarred area north of the main road, crosses the main road at a right angle, and appears to terminate on the south near the rail spur.

A detailed search of the area within a 50-nm radius of the town of Yoshkar-Ola revealed no indication of additional ICBM launch areas and no new SAM launch sites (that is, other than the previously identified SAM site 12 nm south of the launch complex).

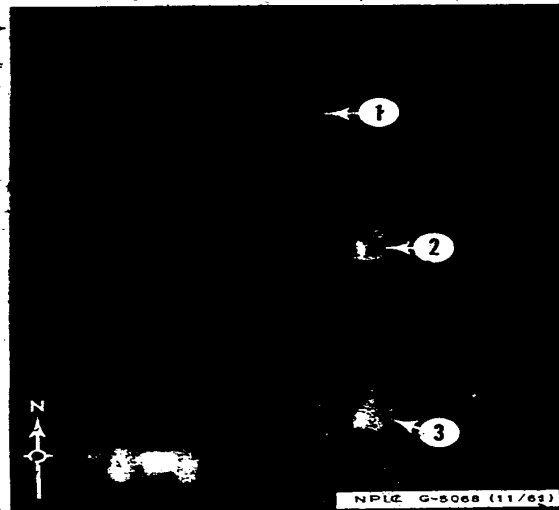


FIGURE 2. LAUNCH AREA B (October 1961).

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REFERENCES

PHOTOGRAPHY

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MAPS AND CHARTS

- SAC. US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0155-22A, 1st ed, Oct 59, scale 1:200,000 (S)
- AMS. Series N501, Sheet 38-12, 2d ed, May 58, scale 1:250,000 (U)
- AMS. Series N501, Sheet 39-10, 2d ed, Sep 55, scale 1:250,000 (U)

DOCUMENTS

1. NPIC. R-2/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Yoshkar-Ola, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
2. NPIC. R-1/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Yur'ya, USSR, Jul 61 (TSCR)
3. NPIC. B-30/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Verkhnyaya Salda, USSR, Oct 61 (TSCR)
4. NPIC. B-36/61, ICBM Launch Complex, Itatka, USSR, Oct 61 (TSCR)

REQUIREMENT

- CIA. DDI/RR/E/R-63/61 (TSR)

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