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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT

SOVIET MRBM AND IRBM LAUNCH AREAS WITHOUT SITE SUPPORT FACILITIES

DECLASS REVIEW BY NIMA / DoD



CIA



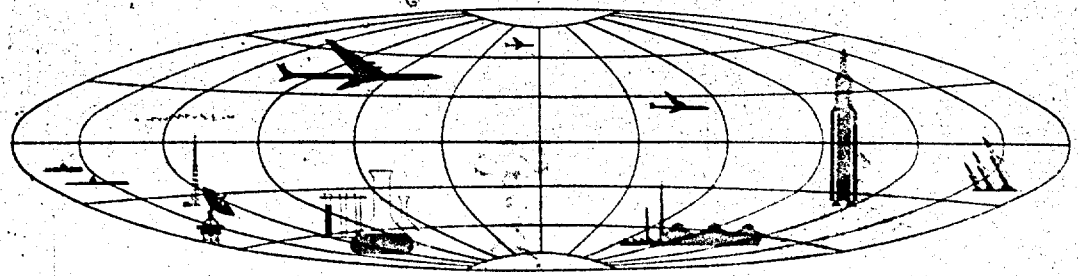
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SOVIET MRBM AND IRBM LAUNCH AREAS
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This report presents a photographic study of 9 selected launch areas deployed in the USSR (Figure 1). Five of these (Bykhov, Marina Gorka, Rozhdestvenka, Uzhgorod, and Kraskino) are MRBM launch areas (Figures 2 to 6) and the remaining 4 (Belomorsk, Zhuravka, Bayram-Ali, and Fedorovka) are IRBM (Figures 7 to 10).

25X1B

[REDACTED]

Within each of the launch areas, a building is positioned on 1 of the inner roads and inline with the ready buildings. This building, designated as a receiving, inspection, and maintenance (RIM) building, is smaller than the associated ready buildings, is never earth mounded, and has an open framework extension at 1 end which possibly supports an overhead crane.

25X9

[REDACTED]

25X9

25X1D

25X1D

The 9 launch areas were constructed between [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] (Figure 11) and are widely distributed throughout the USSR. One is located in the Karelia region, 2 in the Maritime Provinces, 3 in western USSR, and the remaining 3 in central USSR. To date, 3 of the launch

areas have been abandoned or destroyed and evidence of dismantling is noted at 4 of the others. The first photographic evidence of dismantling was seen at the Kraskino Launch Area in [REDACTED] followed by Bayram-Ali [REDACTED] Zhuravka in [REDACTED] Fedorovka in [REDACTED] and Belomorsk in [REDACTED].

The Bayram-Ali Launch Area was later determined abandoned in [REDACTED]. Rozhdestvenka and Bykhov Launch Areas were not seen in a partially dismantled stage but were observed abandoned in [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] respectively. As seen at each of the 4 launch areas that were observed during the period that they were being deactivated, the RIM building and personnel-type buildings are the first components to be removed. In the final phases the remaining buildings or structures are either bulldozed over, destroyed, or abandoned, with their entrances apparently sealed.

Numerous personnel and vehicular reventments are observed on [REDACTED] in and around the Bayram-Ali and Rozhdestvenka Launch Areas. Their presence and the fact that military areas are in the vicinity of both suggest that the launch areas may have been constructed primarily for training; however, a missile exercise has never been seen at any of the launch areas in this category. An analysis of the construction dates of the 9 launch areas in relationship to the Cuban missile crisis reveals the fact that 7 or possibly 8 of the 9 launch areas were constructed just prior to or during the height of that crisis.

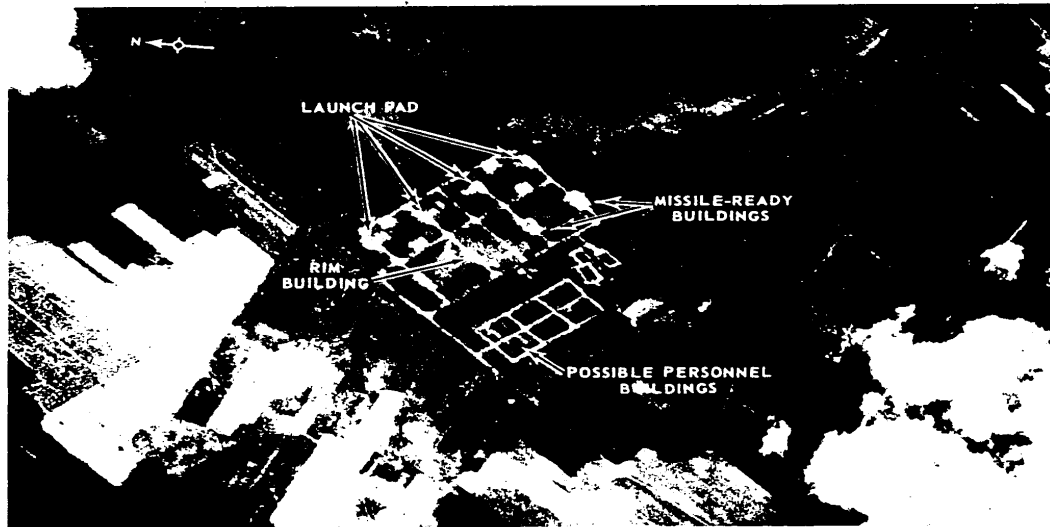
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FIGURE 2. BYKHOV MRBM LAUNCH AREA.



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FIGURE 3. MARINA GORKA MRBM LAUNCH AREA.

- 2 -

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25X1D



FIGURE 6. KRASKINO MRBM LAUNCH AREA.

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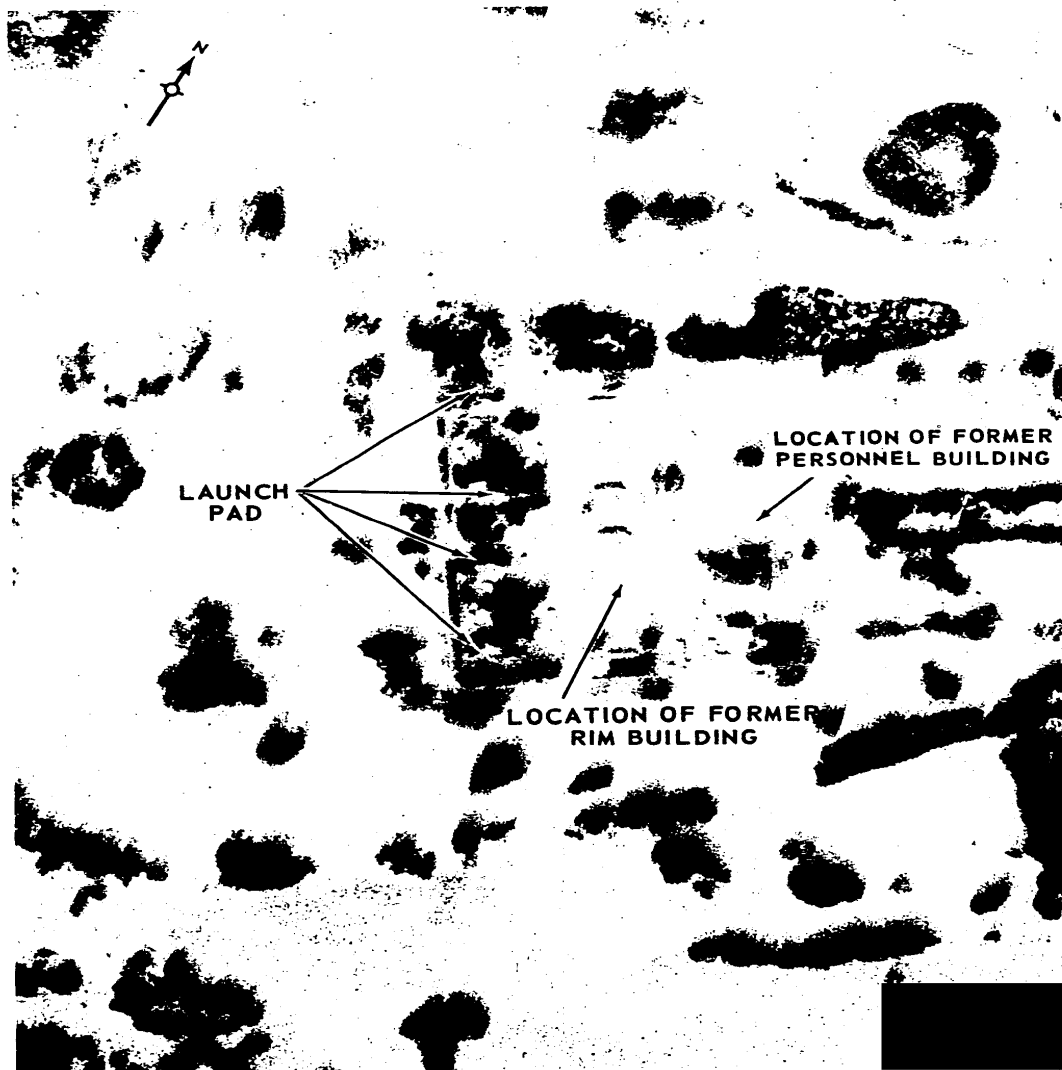


FIGURE 8. ZHURAVKA IRBM LAUNCH AREA.

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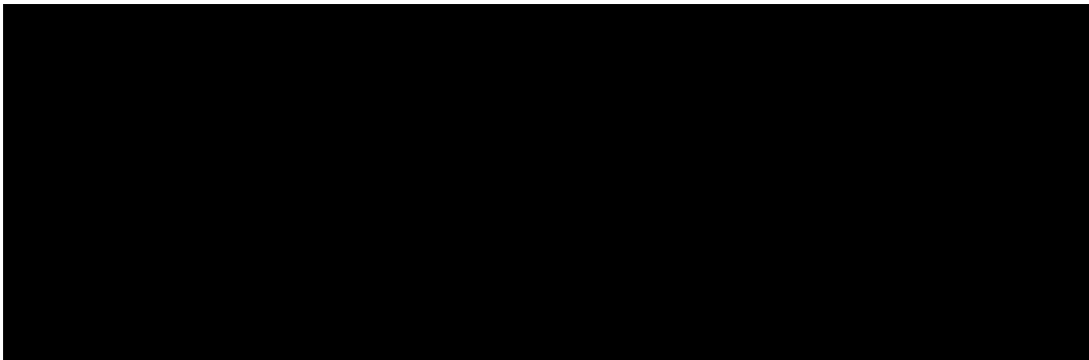
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25X1D

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