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NPIC/PEG (10/83)

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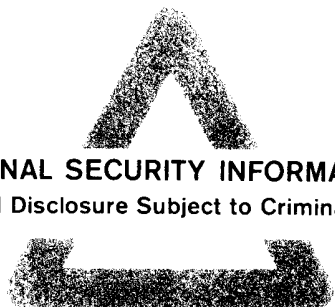
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Attachment to



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NPIC/PEG (10/83)


HEAVY-LIFT VEHICLE COMPATIBILITY TESTING
TYURATAM SPACE LAUNCH SITE W, USSR



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1. SIGNIFICANCE: COMPATIBILITY TESTING OF THE NEW SOVIET HEAVY-LIFT VEHICLE (HLV) WITH THE LAUNCH PAD IS IN PROGRESS. (SWN)
2. REMARKS: THE HLV IS ERECTED ON THE LAUNCH PAD WITH THREE AND PROBABLY FOUR STRAP-ON BOOSTERS ATTACHED TO THE CORE VEHICLE. THE STRAP-ON BOOSTERS APPEAR TO BE MOUNTED IN PAIRS AND ARE NOT SYMMETRICAL ABOUT THE CORE VEHICLE. (SWN)

A BETTER VIEW OF THREE OF THE STRAP-ON BOOSTERS WAS OBTAINED FROM A PREAMBLE STRIP-OUT OF FRAME 2629. THE VEHICLE WAS NOT VISIBLE ON THE ORIGINAL IMAGERY. (TSR)

ADDITIONALLY, THE SERVICE GANTRY TOWER HAS BEEN MOVED AWAY FROM THE LAUNCH PAD AREA. INITIAL COMPATIBILITY TESTING WAS FIRST OBSERVED  WHEN THE SERVICE GANTRY TOWER WAS ON THE LAUNCH PAD FOR THE FIRST TIME. (SWN)

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SPACE LAUNCH SITE W HAS BEEN UNDER CONSTRUCTION SINCE MAY 1978 AND IS DESIGNED TO SUPPORT LAUNCHES OF THE SOVIET SPACE SHUTTLE AND POSSIBLY OTHER PAYLOADS WHICH WILL UTILIZE THE HLV. ALTHOUGH THE CORE VEHICLE FOR HLV AND SOME OF ITS STRAP-ON BOOSTERS HAVE PREVIOUSLY BEEN OBSERVED AT TYURATAM, THIS IS THE FIRST TIME THAT ANY OF THE VEHICLE COMPONENTS HAVE BEEN SEEN AT SPACE LAUNCH SITE W, AND THE FIRST TIME THAT ANY OF THE STRAP-ON BOOSTERS HAVE BEEN OBSERVED ATTACHED TO THE CORE VEHICLE. THE LAUNCH PEDESTAL AT THE LAUNCH PAD AND THE ACCESS PLATFORMS OF THE SERVICE GANTRY TOWER ARE DESIGNED TO ACCOMMODATE THE CORE VEHICLE AND FOUR STRAP-ON BOOSTERS. (SWN)

3.



COORDINATES 46-00-21N 063-18-33E

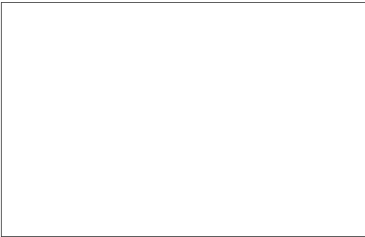
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