



*The President's Daily Brief*

*17 April 71*

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THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF

17 April 1971

PRINCIPAL DEVELOPMENTS

The Soviets are constructing 31 or more new sites for the large new type silos at their missile complexes. (Page 1)

The Soviets also have begun work on a large ABM radar at Moscow oriented toward China. (Page 2)

Semenov has returned to Vienna but shows no sign of flexibility on SALT. (Page 3)

On Page 4 [redacted] South Vietnam [redacted]

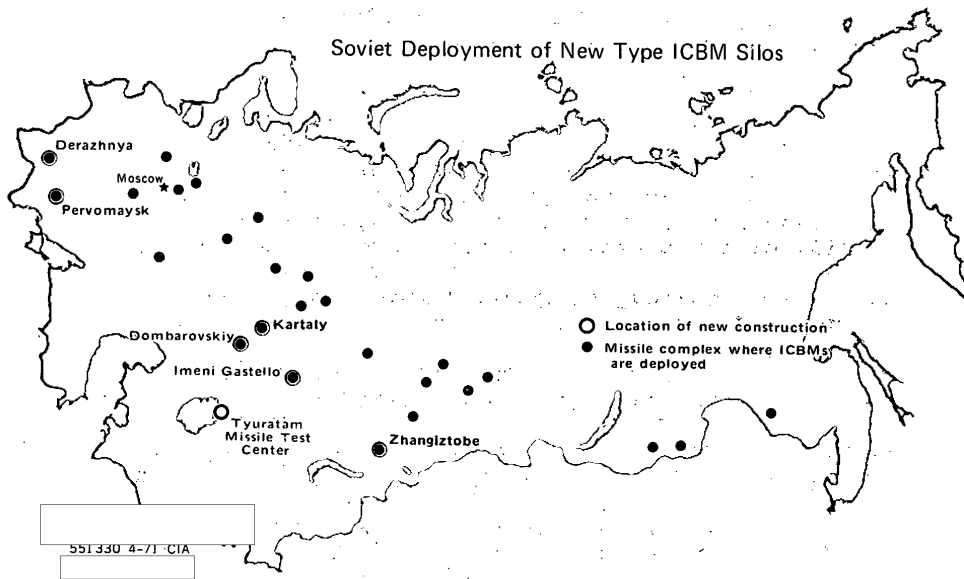
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USSR

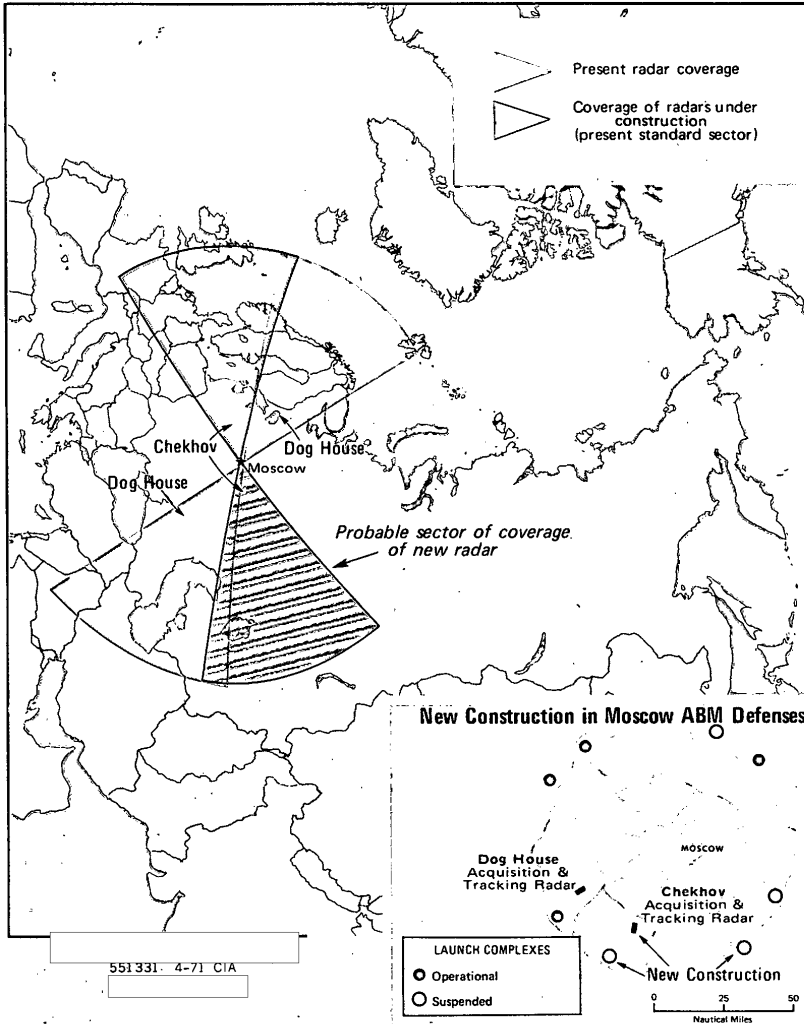
Initial analysis of the latest satellite photography shows construction of 31 new sites for the large new type silos at Soviet missile complexes, and probably two more under construction. These new sites bring the number detected to date to 46. Thirty of the latest identified are at the Pervomaysk complex, where the SS-5 IRBM and the SS-11 ICBM have been positioned and where the new type silos had not been seen previously. Two more sites were detected at the Derazhnya MRBM complex, bringing to ten the number under construction there; one was seen at the Dombarovskiy SS-9 complex, which now has two confirmed sites.

*Earlier photographic coverage had disclosed three sites at the Imeni Gastello SS-9 complex, one likely site at the Zhangiatobe SS-9 complex, and a number of others which have been identified with various degrees of confidence, including four at the Kartaly SS-9 complex. A group of these large new silos is also being built at the Tyuratam Missile Test Center but was not seen on the latest photography.*

*The new sites at Pervomaysk, like those at Derazhnya, are located in areas separate from the SS-11's positioned there. All have been started since August and are in an early stage of construction. The location and arrangement of the new sites at Pervomaysk suggest that there are at least three groups of silos under construction. There may be as many as ten silos per group at Pervomaysk and Derazhnya.*

*The type of missile to be deployed at these new sites is still not clear. The silos may be for a large new and as yet untested ICBM or for a modified version of the SS-9, or may be meant to provide additional hardening for existing versions of the SS-9.*

### Soviets Expand ABM Radar Coverage



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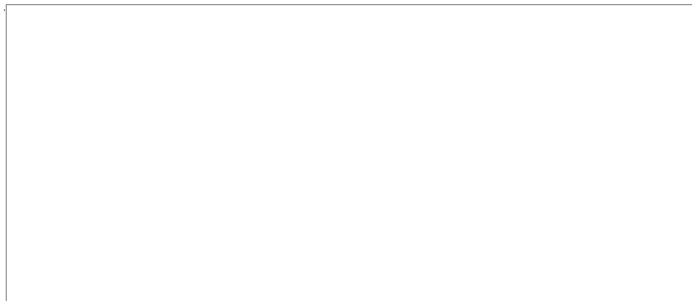
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The latest satellite photography indicates that the Soviets have begun work on a second large ABM radar at the site of the Chekhov acquisition and tracking radar near Moscow. The new clearing and grading was started no earlier than last September. The radar will be oriented toward China.

*The new radar, when completed, will close one of the principal gaps in the coverage of the three other large acquisition and tracking radars at Moscow--the northwest and southeast faces of the Dog House and the westward-oriented radar being built at Chekhov. No construction of a similar radar to provide coverage of the Mediterranean has been detected.*



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SALT

Minister Semenov has returned to Vienna, but the tack he has taken shows no sign of any new flexibility in the Soviet approach to the talks. When he got back he asked Ambassador Smith to the Soviet Embassy and treated him to a two-hour exposition which amounted to a rehash of Moscow's case for a separate, NCA-level ABM agreement. Semenov reiterated the Russian position that the US stand on forward based systems blocks movement toward a broader accord, and argued that the talks should home in on ABM limits now, putting off consideration of offensive weapons until "later."

At yesterday's plenary, Semenov elaborated on the Soviet draft treaty on ABM and Smith called on the Soviets to address the question of numerical limits on strategic offensive forces. No plenary meeting was scheduled for next week. Instead, the two sides agreed to hold a "mini-plenary" (a smaller and less formal session) on ABMs next Wednesday. Other working-group meetings of officials from both sides will be devoted to measures aimed at reducing the danger of accidental nuclear war.

*FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY*

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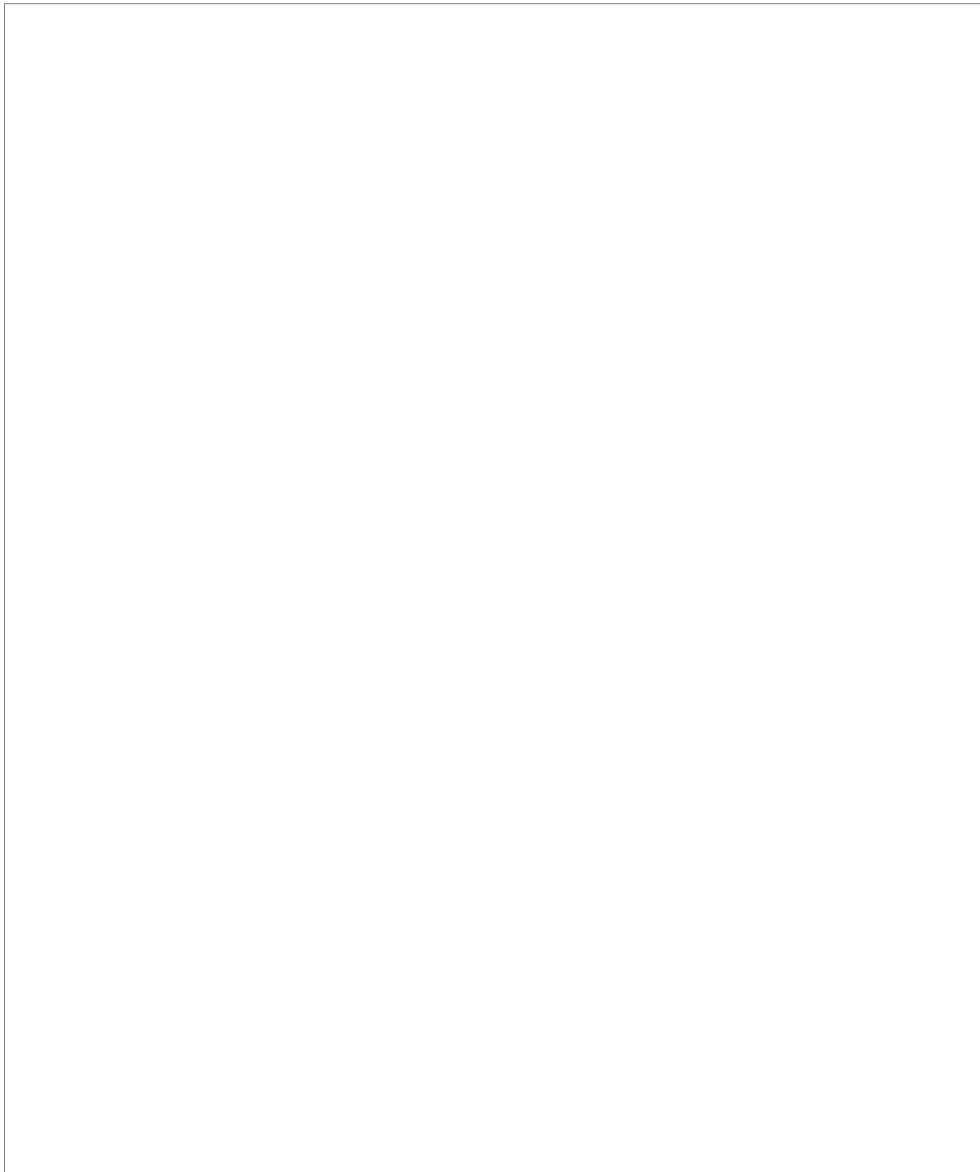
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