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PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE MEMORANDUM

SURFACE-TO-AIR GUIDED MISSILE (SAM)  
FACILITIES IN THE MOSCOW AREA



CIA/RR-HTA-M-1-56

31 July 1956

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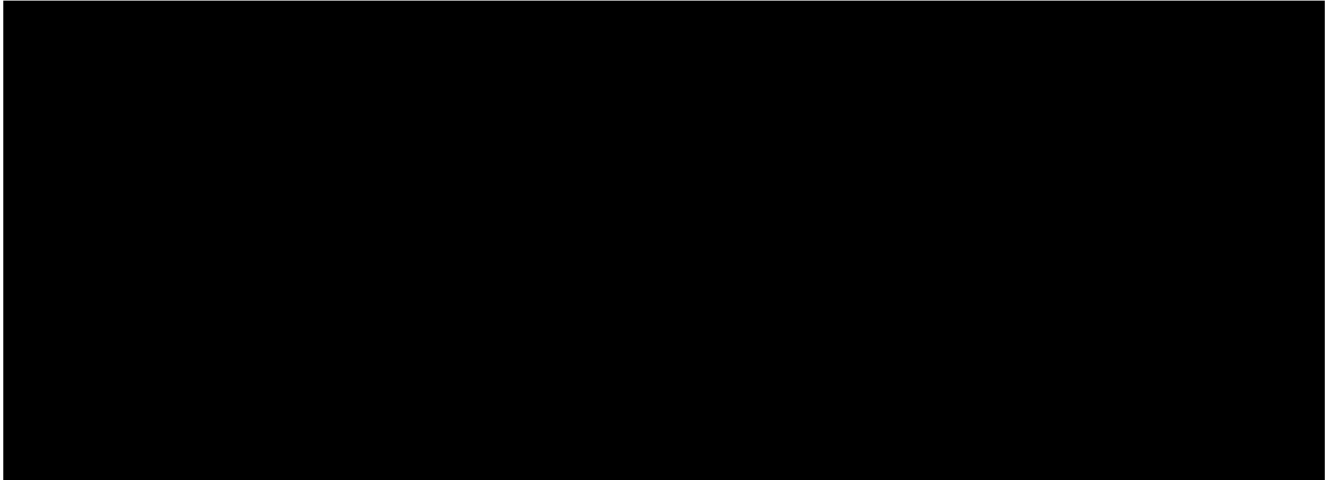
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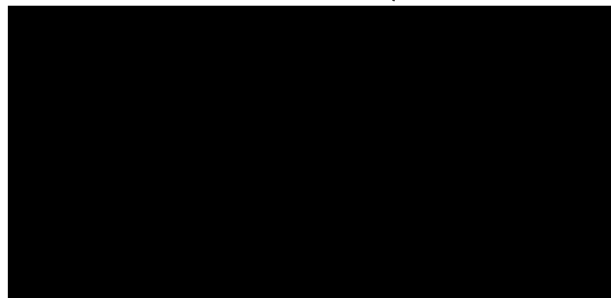
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HTA-MI-56

SURFACE TO AIR GUIDED MISSILE (SAM) FACILITIES IN THE MOSCOW AREA

I. INTRODUCTION

CIA/RR-HTA-MI-56 designates the first of a series of Photographic Intelligence Memoranda based on TALENT photography. It is a preliminary report of significant new information based on a first phase examination of positive transparencies before receipt of prints for stereoscopic study.

All aerial photography prior to [REDACTED] provided coverage of eight SAM sites and one missile assembly and storage facility. [REDACTED] TALENT mission has accomplished a 100% increase in the number of SAM sites and assembly facilities covered, and in addition has provided comparative cover of one previously reported missile assembly and storage facility and four SAM sites.

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II. NEW SITES COVERED

Attachment A is a reduction of a standard 1/500,000 map showing the double ring of SAM sites in the dispersion pattern predicted on the basis of previous study. Locations confirmed from TALENT and previous photography are shown by appropriate symbols.

The additional eight SAM sites provided by TALENT fall into the predicted dispersion pattern, but it appears probable that there will prove to be one or two less sites on each ring than had been indicated by the pattern of previous confirmed locations.

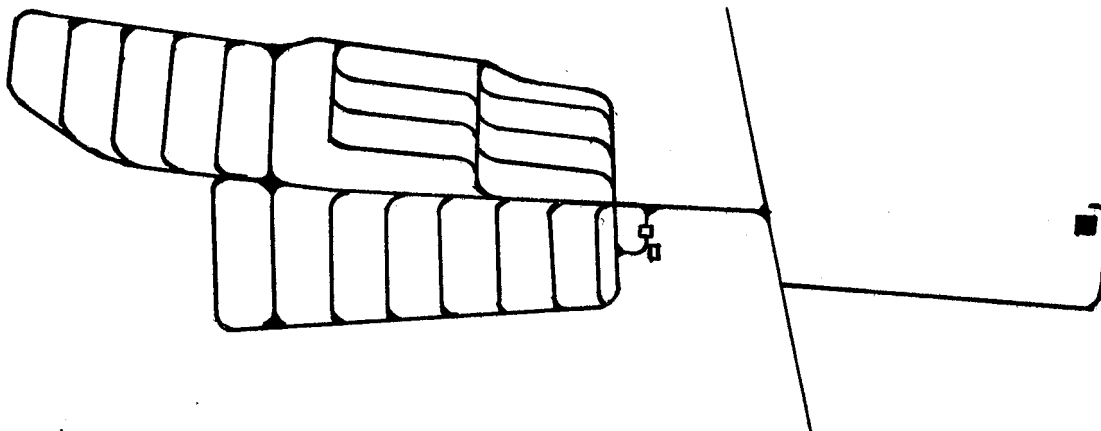
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III. SITE CONFIGURATION

It has been known that while axial orientation of the sites in relation to the Kremlin area is constant, the detailed pattern of individual sites vary as dictated by local terrain and cultural features. All variations previously noted have been relatively minor, involving a staggered location of some transverse roads, or the elimination of a few launching bays. One of the sites imaged on TALENT photography deviates considerably from the previously-established "normal" pattern while its axis in relation to the Kremlin is as predicted. (Figure 1 below) Six of the transverse roads on one side of the center road have been turned 90° from the usual layout, but the same number of launching pads are in evidence. This anomaly may provide some clue to the method of operation and military requirements for which the sites were designed.

Figure 1. Rough Sketch of Site No. 15



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IV. NEW MISSILE ASSEMBLY AND STORAGE AREA

A previously suspected missile assembly and storage facility located southeast of Istra falls on the inner ring of SAM launch sites between sites 14 and 16. Because of the size of the installation, many intelligence analysts have felt that no more than one such site could be expected for each quadrant.

TALENT photography reveals another of these installations on the inner ring about 13 nm south of the Istra site. The new site is between launching sites 10 and 12, just west of Golitsyno. Both of these sites occur on the same ring of SAM sites, and they are identical in layout except for the placement of some of the buildings.

The installation near Istra appeared to be in operation in [REDACTED] and several hundred missile-like objects were stored in the open. In the TALENT photography of [REDACTED] the site near Golitsyno is under construction and appears to be several months from completion.

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The positive transparencies of the mission have been thoroughly scanned, but no other similar installations have been discovered. Some possible locations are obscured by clouds.

The wide area coverage of the TALENT material shows several major installations previously not known to be associated with this type of facility directly connected with the Golitsyno facility, and at least one associated with the Istra site.

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