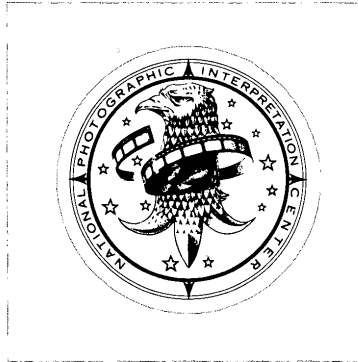
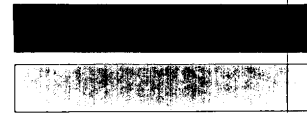


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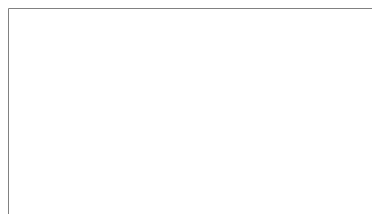
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**PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION  
REPORT**

**NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHIC  
INTERPRETATION CENTER**

**INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY  
IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS  
MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE USSR**



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## INCREASED MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE USSR

### INTRODUCTION

1. An increase in Soviet military activity in the Transcaucasus Military District of the USSR which borders Turkey and Iran was observed on KEYHOLE photography during the period of June 1968 to April 1970. Information on this activity has so far been reported only on a mission-to-mission basis. A review of the photographic evidence that has been accumulating, particularly during the period of August 1969 to April 1970, has been undertaken in order to summarize this activity in one report.

2. The increase in activity observed is primarily defensive in nature and consists of the following:

(1) An increase in ground order-of-battle equipment at ground force installations, including the introduction of types of equipment not previously observed at these installations.

(2) The construction of new defensive missile installations, including SA-3 sites, an SA-2 site, and an SA-5 site.

(3) The construction of new runways and hangarages at airfields.

(4) The construction and expansion of electronics installations.

Tables 1 and 2 provide details of this activity. The tables are keyed to Figures 1 and 2.

### ACTIVITY AT GROUND FORCE INSTALLATIONS

3. Ground force activity consisted of an increase in the amount of equipment observed and the introduction of new items of equipment at 18 of approximately 120 military installations. A substantial increase in the number of decontamination trucks at one installation and in the number of tanks at another installation was observed near Tbilisi (Tiflis), the capital of the Transcaucasus Military District. Items of equipment observed for the first time include FROG-6 training vehicles at three facilities, field artillery (FA) and antiaircraft artillery (AAA) pieces at three facilities, SA-2 equipment at three facilities, decontamination units at five facilities, and BRDM-2 amphibious armored reconnaissance vehicles at one facility, which also had an increase of other BRDM vehicles, armored personnel carriers, and trucks. An airborne unit was observed at a military barracks that previously housed a regular ground force unit.

### ACTIVITY AT DEFENSIVE MISSILE INSTALLATIONS

4. Continued construction of defensive missile installations was observed during this period. The main emphasis appears to be on the short-range, low-level SA-3 site. Five SA-3 sites were observed under construction, one at Tbilisi and four at Baku, of which two became operational within the reporting period. This makes a total of 14 SA-3 sites observed in the Transcaucasus Military District. A new operational SA-2 site was seen in September 1969, for a total of 52 deployed SA-2 sites in the Transcaucasus. An SA-5 site, the only one in this military district, was in an initial stage of construction when first observed on photography of April 1968 and was nearly complete when last observed in June 1969.

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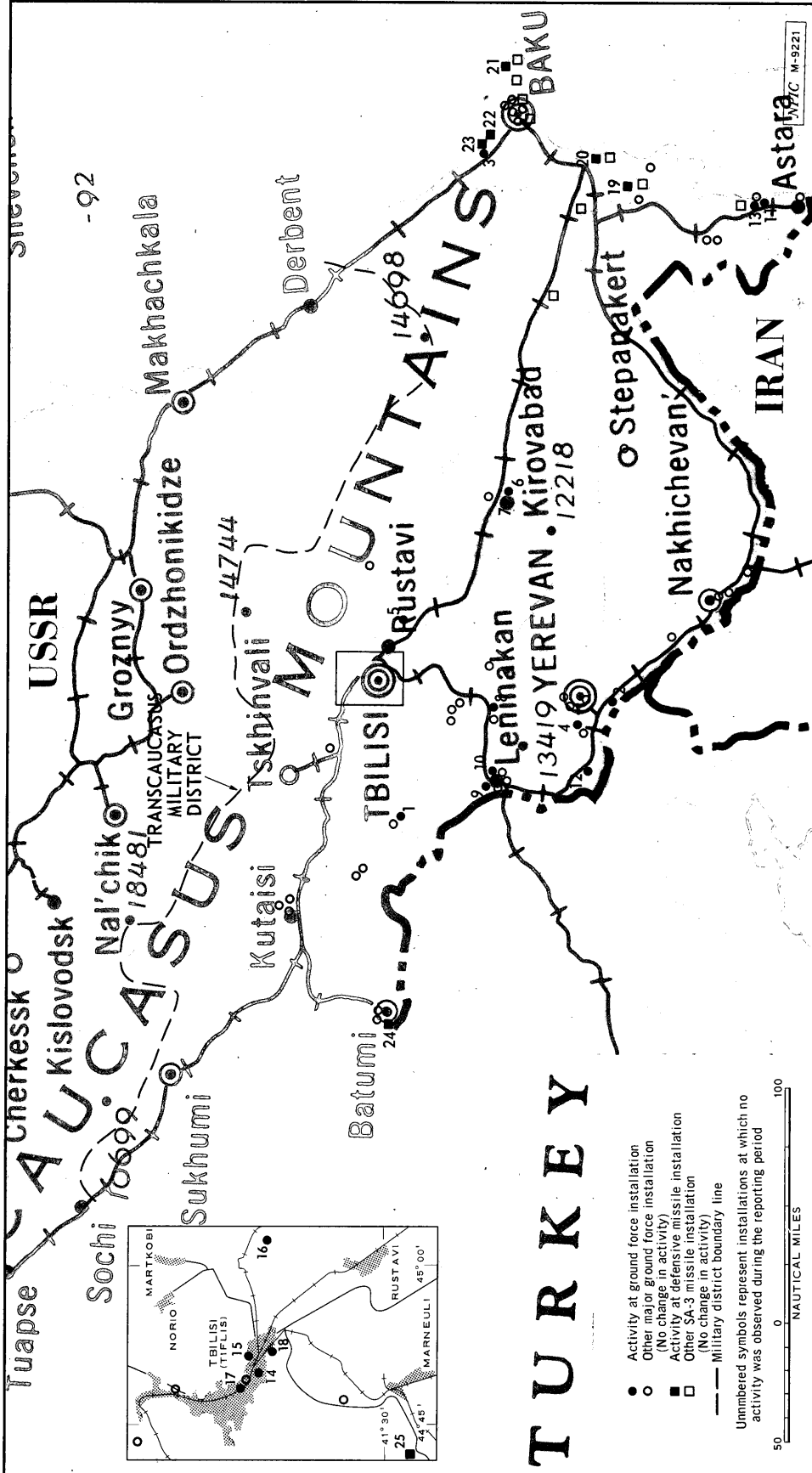


FIGURE 1. GROUND FORCE AND DEFENSIVE MISSILE INSTALLATIONS IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT OF THE USSR

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Table 1. Activity at Ground Force and Defensive Missile Installations  
(Keyed to Figure 1)

Item	Installation	Nature of Activity	Item	Installation	Nature of Activity
<u>Ground Force Installations</u>					
1	Akhalkalaki Military Bks AL 2 41-23N 043-29E	First identification of decontamination vehicles in Jan 70 (1 DDA-53, 4 ARS-12, and 1 probable ARS-12)	14	Tbilisi Army Bks Navtug AL 3 41-40N 044-50E	First identification of BRDM-2 reconnaissance vehicles (13) and increase of ground forces equipment in Nov 69; increase of 20 BRDM, 51 trucks, and 28 BTR-60 APC since Jun 69
2	Artashat Bks SE AL 1 39-57N 044-33E	First identification of FA pieces in Nov 69 (8 FA pieces with AT-L prime movers)	15	Tbilisi Army Bks Samgori AL 20 41-41N 044-53E	First identification of SA-2 equipment in Nov 69 (6 SA-2 transporters with prime movers, 1 possible missile transporter with prime mover, and 6 BM-20 rocket launchers)
3	Baku Army Bks Nasomyy AL 14 40-37N 049-33E	First identification of SA-2 equipment in Jun 68 (6 SA-2 launchers and 1 canister transporter)	16	Tbilisi Army Bks Vaziani SE AL 15 41-39N 045-05E	First identification of FA pieces in Aug 69 (five 130mm FA guns, eight 122/152mm FA pieces, and 41 other FA pieces)
4	Echmiadzin Army Bks Central AL 5 40-10N 044-17E	First identification of FA and AAA pieces in Nov 69 (20 FA and 9 AAA pieces)	17	Tbilisi Munitions Plant 41-42N 044-49E	First identification of SA-2 equipment in Nov 69 (6 SA-2 launchers at training area). The installation also includes an ordnance and machine plant, munitions storage facilities, and barracks
5	Kechveli Bks & Storage Area 41-20N 045-15E	Increase in Jun 69 of approximately 60 ARS-12 decontamination vehicles since Aug 66, for a total of 117	18	Tbilisi Tank Repair Plant 41-40N 044-53E	Fourteen tracked vehicles and 187 tanks or assault guns observed in Nov 69; increase of 73 tanks since Aug 69
6	Kirovabad Army Bks E AL 1 40-40N 046-23E	First identification of decontamination equipment in Dec 68 (12 probable DDA decontamination vehicles)	<u>Defensive Missile Installations</u>		
7	Kirovabad Army Bks NW AL 3 40-42N 046-20E	Occupied since Jun 68 by an airborne unit; training facilities in Dec 68 included a practice descent device, a jump tower, 7 suspended harness devices, 55 tents, and 130 parachutes drying in the open; equipment has remained at approximately 100 vehicles since Dec 68	19	Ali-Bayramly SAM Site B17A-3 39-38N 049-01E	In an early stage of construction in Apr 67, site was first observed occupied in Jun 68
8	Kirovakan Army Bks SE AL 2 40-48N 044-29E	First identification of decontamination equipment in Nov 69 (4 ARS-12 decontamination vehicles)	20	Ali-Bayramly SAM Site C10-3 39-52N 049-21E	Apparently under construction in Aug 67, site was complete and appeared occupied in Mar 68
9	Leninakan Army Bks North AL 3 40-48N 043-49E	First identification of FROG equipment in Nov 69 (1 FROG-6)	21	Baku SAM Complex C10-5 40-21N 050-20E	Under construction in Apr 68, site was in final stage of construction in Jun 69
10	Leninakan Army Bks NE AL 4 40-48N 043-52E	First identification of FROG equipment in Jun 69 (2 canvas-covered FROG-6)	22	Baku SAM Site B32-3 40-37N 049-34E	In a late stage of construction in Jun 68, site appeared partially inundated in Aug 69; site now appears to have been moved west to 40-38N 049-33E (see item 23)
11	Lenkoran Army Bks AL 1 38-45N 048-51E	First identification of decontamination equipment in Sep 69 (1 probable ARS-12 and 1 DDA-53 decontamination vehicles); 4 DDA-53 and 6 ARS-12 observed in Jan 70	23	Baku SAM Site C32-3 40-38N 049-33E	Site appeared to be near completion when first observed in Sep 69; Baku SAM Site B32-3 (item 22) has apparently moved to this location
12	Oktemberyan Army Bks AL 2 40-07N 043-55E	First identification of decontamination equipment in Aug 68 (12 ARS-12 and 1 DDA decontamination vehicles)	24	Batumi SAM Site A24A-2 41-35N 041-34E	In an early stage of construction when first observed in Jun 69, site was operational when seen in Sep 69
13	Port Hich Army Bks SSE AL 1 38-52N 048-48E	First identification of FROG equipment in Apr 69 (1 FROG-6)	25	Tbilisi SAM Site B20-3 41-29N 044-42E	Site was in early stage of construction when first observed in Oct 69

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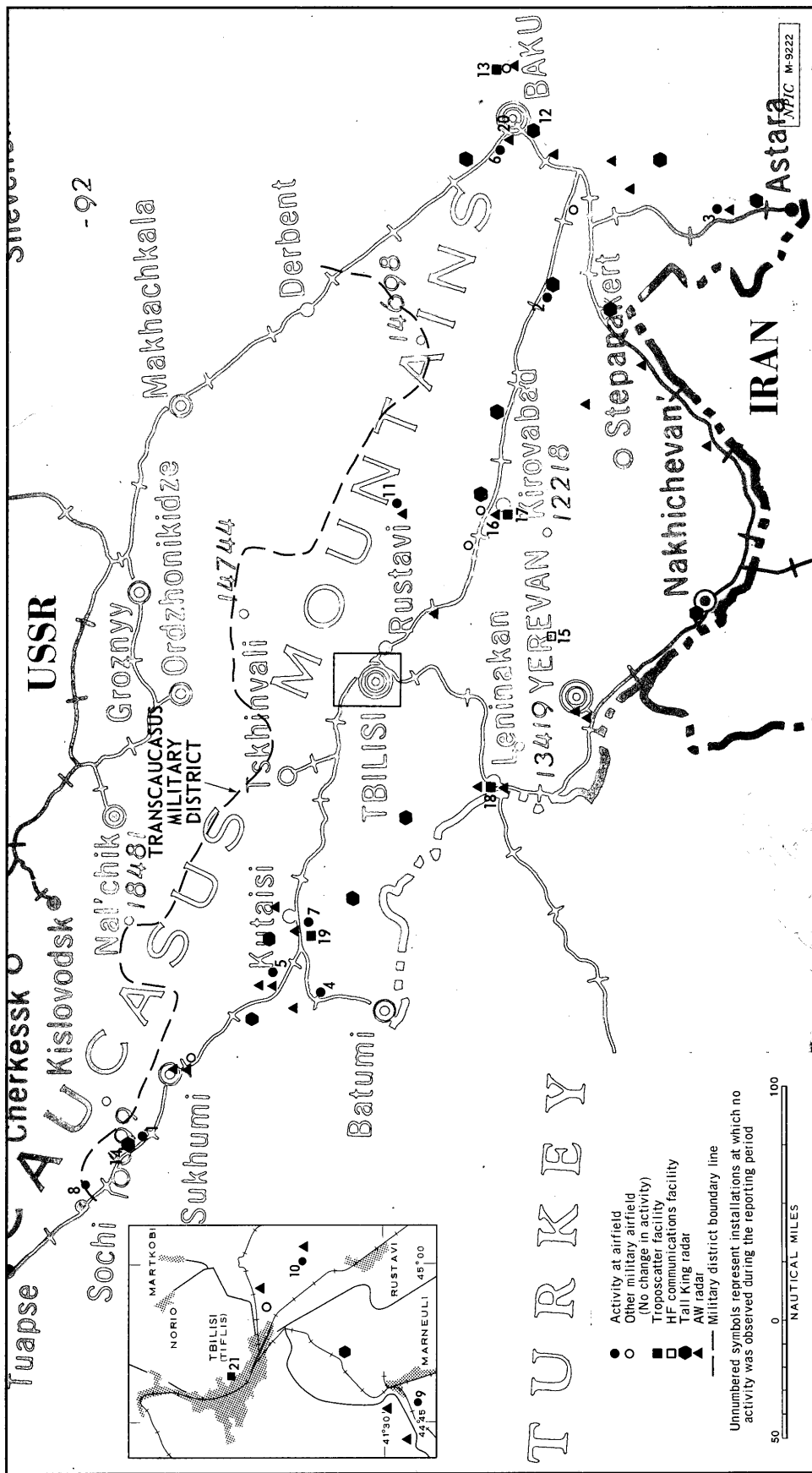


FIGURE 2. AIRFIELDS AND ELECTRONICS INSTALLATIONS IN THE TRANSCAUCASUS MILITARY DISTRICT

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Table 2. Activity at Airfields and Electronics Installations  
(Keyed to Figure 2)

Item	Installation	Nature of Activity	Item	Installation	Nature of Activity
		<u>Airfields</u>			<u>Electronics Installations</u>
1	Gudauta Airfield 43-06N 040-34E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Jun 68; 28 hangarrettes were complete and a drone launch facility was under construction in Sep 69	12	Baku TALL KING AW Radar Facility 40-18N 049-46E	First identification of an operational TALL KING facility at the existing AW facility in Jan 70; 2 BAR LOCK, 2 SIDE NET, and 2 SPOON REST radars, 2 unidentified antenna positions, and 1 probable communications tower are also present
2	Kyurdamir Airfield 40-16N 048-09E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Aug 69; 9 hangarrettes were completed in Nov 69; ground scarring indicates additional hangarrette construction	13	Baku Troposcatter Facility 40-28N 050-11E	First identification of a single twin-dish troposcatter antenna in Aug 68; facility is collocated with Baku HF Communications Facility
3	Kyzylgach Airfield 39-08N 048-48E	A regiment of FAGOT/FRESCO normally stationed here has not been observed at this airfield since [redacted] possibly being transferred to the Transbaykal or Far East area*	14	Gudauta TALL KING AW Radar Facility 43-07N 040-33E	Site was being hardened in Dec 68; hardening continued in Sep 69; facility consists of 2 AW sites; one site includes a TALL KING antenna, 1 probable FORK REST antenna, and 1 antenna building; the other site includes 2 BACK NET radars, 1 hardened BAR LOCK radar, 3 hardened SIDE NET radars -- all on mounds -- 1 SQUAT EYE radar, 1 possible FLAVY FACE radar, and 2 FORK REST antennas
4	Makharadze Airfield 41-55N 041-51E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Jun 69; at least 23 hangarrettes were complete or near completion in Jan 70	15	Kamo HF Communications Facility 40-24N 045-11E	Construction of 2 new antenna arrays, consisting of 4 self-supporting lattice towers each, and footings for 2 more arrays observed in Oct 69; each array has 3 bays and will probably be made up of horizontal dipole elements stacked vertically; 2 nearby areas also contain footings for arrays which will probably be similar to the 2 existing arrays
5	Mikha Tshakaya Airfield 42-14N 042-03E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Jun 69; at least 21 hangarrettes were completed in Aug 69	16	Kirovabad Air Defense HQ Radar Fac 40-43N 046-18E	Site was being hardened in Jan 70; facility consists of a hardened BAR LOCK radar, a hardened ROCK/STONE CAKE radar, a BAR LOCK radar, and a ROCK/STONE CAKE radar, all on mounds; 2 communications facilities and a troposcatter facility are collocated with this site
6	Nasosny Airfield 40-35N 049-33E	Hangarrette construction began in Sep 67; 2 completed double-bay hangarrettes, 12 completed single-bay hangarrettes, and 2 single-bay hangarrettes under construction were observed in Aug 69; NW/SE concrete parking apron is being converted into a 2,040 x 80.7-meter (6,695 x 265-foot) runway	17	Kirovabad Troposcatter Facility 40-42N 046-19E	Identified in Jun 68, facility consists of 1 pair of twin-dish antennas; facility is collocated with Kirovabad Air Defense HQ Radar Facility
7	Samtredia Airfield East 42-10N 042-29E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Sep 68; 19 completed hangarrettes, 11 hangarrettes under construction, and a parking apron under construction were observed in Nov 69	18	Leninakan Troposcatter Facility 40-46N 043-49E	Identified in Nov 69, facility consisted of 1 twin-dish troposcatter antenna; a second twin-dish troposcatter antenna was identified in Jan 70
8	Sochi/Adler Airfield 43-26N 039-56E	Runway construction first observed in Mar 68; new 2,200 x 50-meter (7,220 x 165-foot) runway with links to existing taxiway was completed in Jul 69	19	Samtredia Troposcatter Facility 42-10N 042-27E	Identified in Jun 69, facility consists of 1 pair of twin-dish troposcatter antennas; facility is collocated with Samtredia VHF/HF Communications Facility
9	Tbilisi/Marneuli Airfield 41-27N 044-47E	Runway construction observed in Aug 68; new 2,487 x 43.2-meter (8,160 x 142-foot) E/W concrete runway was completed in Nov 68; first hangarrette observed under construction in Nov 69; ground scars indicate a second hangarrette under construction	20	Sungait AW Radar Facility 40-32N 049-35E	Site was being hardened in Apr 69; facility consists of 2 hardened BAR LOCK, 1 hardened ROCK/STONE CAKE, 2 BACK NET, and 2 SIDE NET radars -- all on mounds
10	Tbilisi/Vaziani Airfield 41-37N 045-01E	First identification of FISHBED H aircraft (at least 23) in Aug 69; construction of hangarrettes first observed in Aug 69; 16 hangarrettes were completed and 57 were under construction in Nov 69; dispersal areas are being improved	21	Tbilisi Troposcatter Facility 41-43N 044-50E	Identified in Aug 69, facility consists of 3 pairs of twin-dish troposcatter antennas; facility is collocated with Tbilisi HF Communications Facility North
11	Zemo-Keeli Airfield 41-22N 046-23E	Hangarrette construction first observed in Apr 69; 10 hangarrettes were complete and 30 were under construction in Jan 70			

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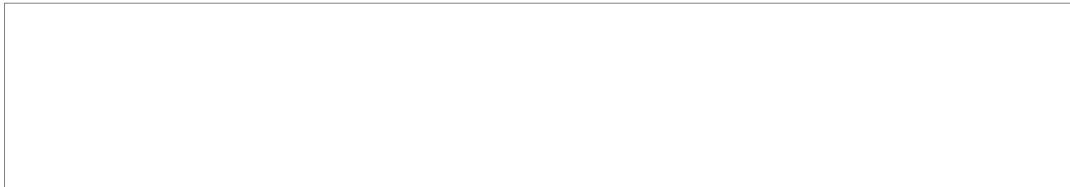
**ACTIVITY AT AIRFIELDS**

5. New hard-surface runways have been constructed and are now operational at Tbilisi/Marneuli and Sochi/Adler airfields; a hard-surface runway is under construction at Nasosnyy Airfield. At least 140 hangarettes were constructed and at least 100 hangarettes were still under construction at nine military airfields when last observed. The number of aircraft at these airfields remained stable during this period with the exception of the introduction of the FISHBED H or J aircraft at Tbilisi/Vaziani Airfield and the departure of a regiment of FAGOT/FRESCO from Kyzylagach Airfield.

**ACTIVITY AT ELECTRONICS INSTALLATIONS**

6. Five troposcatter facilities were constructed, three air warning radar sites were hardened, and one TALL KING radar site became operational during the period of June 1968 to April 1970. Two high-frequency (HF) antenna arrays and footings for two additional arrays were constructed at Kamo HF Communications Facility.

**REFERENCES**



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**REQUIREMENT**

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