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6 November 1961  
NPIC/IM-39/61

MEMORANDUM FOR: Assistant Director for Scientific Intelligence  
(CIA/OSI)

THROUGH: TALENT Control Officer, CIA/OSI

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ATTENTION:



SUBJECT: Search for Indications of Nuclear Testing in Areas  
of Seismic Events (3-29 May and 23-28 August  
1961) in the USSR and China

REFERENCES: (a) Requirement OSI/R-165/61  
(b) NPIC Project JN-271/61

1. The purpose of this memorandum is to present the results of a search of available photography covering the areas of 21 unidentified seismic events in the periods 3-29 May and 23-28 August 1961 submitted with OSI Requirement R-165/61. The search was for any signs of preparations for, or effects of, any clandestine nuclear testing in the USSR and China. No indications of nuclear testing were identified.

2. Where photography was available, an area having a radius of approximately 25 nautical miles (nm) from the coordinates of the epicenter of each event was searched. In several cases only part of the area was covered, and in some cases the area was partially or completely covered by clouds and/or haze. Photography dated more than 2 years prior to the dates of the events was not included in the search.

- 1 -

TOP SECRET

25X1



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SUBJECT: Search for Indications of Nuclear Testing NPIC/IM-39/61  
in Areas of Seismic Events (3-29 May and  
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3. It should be kept in mind that the characteristics of some of the photography (small scale, poor image, obliquity, partial coverage, weather conditions, etc.) considerably hindered the photographic search.

4. The following is the status of photographic coverage of the epicenters:

a. Epicenters with partial or complete photographic coverage	20
b. Epicenters without photographic coverage	$\frac{1}{21}$
Total	$\frac{1}{21}$

Note: Two seismic events, dated 4 May and 25 May 61, located in Burma were deleted from this report.

5. Attached is the list of seismic events, in the order of occurrence, giving the location, photographic coverage available, and the results of the photographic interpretation search.

FOR THE DIRECTOR, NPIC

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Operations Officer

Enclosure:

Photographic Coverage of Areas of Unidentified Seismic Events.

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25X1

- 3 -

TOP SECRET

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PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF AREAS OF UNIDENTIFIED SEISMIC EVENTS  
(3-29 May and 23-28 August 1961)

Date of Seismic Event	Location, Coordinates, WAC	Mission, Photo Date	Camera or Pass/Frames	Classification	Weather*	Remarks
			25X1			
3 May 61 ✓	Kamchatka 53-30N 159-06E WAC 194		25X1	SC		Complete coverage. Clouds obscure most of area. Nothing pertinent identified.
		IIC			Area completely obscured by clouds.	
4 May 61	Kuril Islands 45-12N 148-48E WAC 250			SC		Oblique coverage. Poor image, obliquity, and clouds prevent interpretation.
4 May 61 ✓	Hindu Kush 37-24N 071-42E WAC 336			SC		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
5 May 61 ✓	Kamchatka 54-18N 159-00E WAC 194			SC-II		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
				IIC-SC		Complete coverage. Clouds obscure much of area. Nothing pertinent identified.
6 May 61	Kamchatka 54-48N 156-42E WAC 194			IIC		Complete coverage. Area obscured by clouds.
8 May 61	Tien Shan 39-48N 078-12E WAC 335			CI		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
			SC		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
11 May 61 ✓	Coast of Kamchatka 54-24N 159-06E WAC 194		SC-II		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
			IIC-SC		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	

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Enclosure

PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF AREAS OF UNIDENTIFIED SEISMIC EVENTS - (Continued)

Date of Seismic Event	Location, Coordinates, WAC	Mission, Photo Date	Camera or Pass/Frames	Classification	Weather*	Remarks
25X1						
12 May 61	✓ Sinkiang-Kirgiz Border 39-42N 074-18E WAC 335			CI		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
				SC		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
14 May 61	✓ Kamchatka 53-42N 158-18E WAC 194			SC		Complete coverage. Most of area obscured by clouds. Nothing pertinent identified.
15 May 61	✓ Hindu Kush 37-30N 072-00E WAC 336			CI		Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
17 May 61	Tibet 34-06N 090-36E WAC 434					No photo coverage.
20 May 61	✓ Sinkiang 39-24N 077-12E WAC 335			CI		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
				SC		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
22 May 61	Sinkiang 39-36N 073-42E WAC 336			IIC		Partial coverage. Area obscured by clouds.
			CI		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
25 May 61	✓ Sinkiang 40-00N 078-00E WACs 329, 335		CI		Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.	
			SC-II		Partial coverage. Haze and clouds obscure most of area. Nothing pertinent identified.	

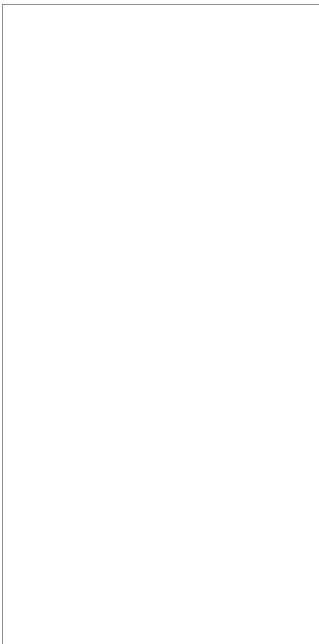
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PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE OF AREAS OF UNIDENTIFIED SEISMIC EVENTS - (Continued)

Date of Seismic Event	Location, Coordinates, WAC	Mission, Photo Date	Camera or Pass/Frames	Classification	Weather*	Remarks
27 May 61	Hindu Kush 35-18N 070-06E WAC 431	25X1 			SC	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
28 May 61	Sinkiang 40-18N 078-06E WAC 329				CI	Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
29 May 61	Kamchatka 55-18N 159-30E WAC 194				II	Partial coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
23 Aug 61	Kamchatka 54-00N 157-00E WAC 194				IIC	Complete coverage. Area obscured by clouds.
24 Aug 61	Kamchatka 57-00N 161-00E WAC 132				CI	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
28 Aug 61	Tibet 32-00N 95-00E WACs 437, 434, 435				SC	Complete coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
					CI	Oblique coverage. Nothing pertinent identified.
					SC-IIC	Oblique coverage. Much of area obscured by clouds. Nothing pertinent identified.
28 Aug 61	Kamchatka 54-00N 158-00E WAC 194				SC-II	Complete coverage. Much of area obscured. Nothing pertinent identified.

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\* CI-Clear, IIC-Heavy Clouds, SC-Scattered Clouds, II-Haze.