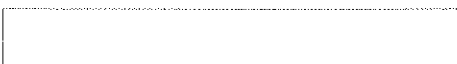




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ice for the time being while Hanoi explores with the US terms for a political settlement.

SOVIET AFFAIRS

The latest satellite photography shows construction under way on two new groups of SS-9 missile launchers and one new group of SS-13 missile launchers. This makes five SS-9 groups started so far this year, compared with five starts in 1967 and six in 1968. All six in 1968 were started in the first half of the year.

The new groups bring the total of SS-9 groups completed or under construction to 43. When these groups are completed, probably in early 1971, there will be 258 SS-9 silos. Currently, 28 SS-9 groups--168 silos--are operational. Based on earlier photography it had appeared that 31 groups--186 silos--would be completed by this time, but the pace of construction has not been proceeding as fast as we had expected.

Completion of the new SS-13 group will make 50 silos at Yoshkar-Ola, the only SS-13 missile complex. One group of ten launchers probably is now operational and another soon will be. All five probably will be operational by mid-1971.

The search of photography for other ICBM deployment is continuing.

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