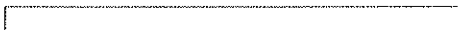




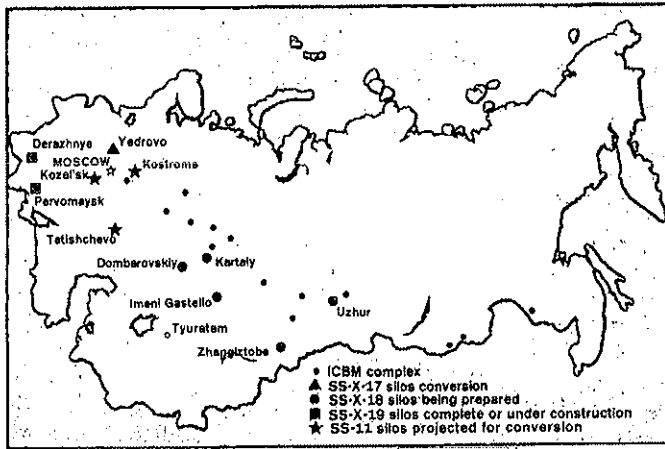
The President's Daily Brief

January 18, 1975

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The USSR is developing at least one and possibly other new test areas at the Semipalatinsk Nuclear Weapons Proving Ground, apparently in anticipation of implementing the US-Soviet nuclear threshold treaty in April 1976.

Once the treaty becomes effective, the Soviets will be required to provide specific test information, such as calibration yields and geologic data, for those test areas used after the treaty enters into force. Information provided on older areas, where existing weapons were developed, would permit the US to refine its estimates on the yields of these weapons. Soviet concern over this prospect probably is prompting the development of the new test areas.

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The first silos for two of the new Soviet ICBMs, the SS-X-18 Mod 1 and SS-X-19, probably are now operational. Work is continuing on additional silos for these missiles as well as a group for the SS-X-17. The SS-X-19, which carries six warheads, is the first Soviet strategic missile with MIRVs to be installed at an operational complex.

The first launch group of ten silos for the SS-X-18 was completed at the Dombarovskiy ICBM complex late last year. [redacted]

[redacted] in early December the Soviets were in the process of installing a missile canister in one of the silos. By now, missiles probably have been installed and checked out in all ten silos in the group.

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The SS-X-18 Mod 1, which carries a large, single warhead, is believed to be the missile system being installed in the newly completed silos. The Mod 2, the MIRV version of the SS-X-18, has been fired 14 times and probably will require additional testing before it is ready for the field.

(continued)

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The Soviets may be testing several different MIRV payload configurations on the Mod 2. Since last summer, SS-X-18s have carried four re-entry vehicles similar to those in previous MIRV tests and four smaller ones with higher re-entry speeds.

A group of ten SS-11 silos has been converted to the SS-X-19 silo configuration at the Derazhnva ICBM complex. [redacted]

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[redacted] that one missile in the group was being fueled. A similar group at the Pervomaysk ICBM complex may also be complete.

Developmental flight-testing of the SS-X-19 evidently has been completed, and series production of the missile probably is under way. Crew training firings may also have started. For these reasons, we believe that the recently converted silos are equipped with SS-X-19 missiles.

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