



CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

THE PRESIDENT'S DAILY BRIEF



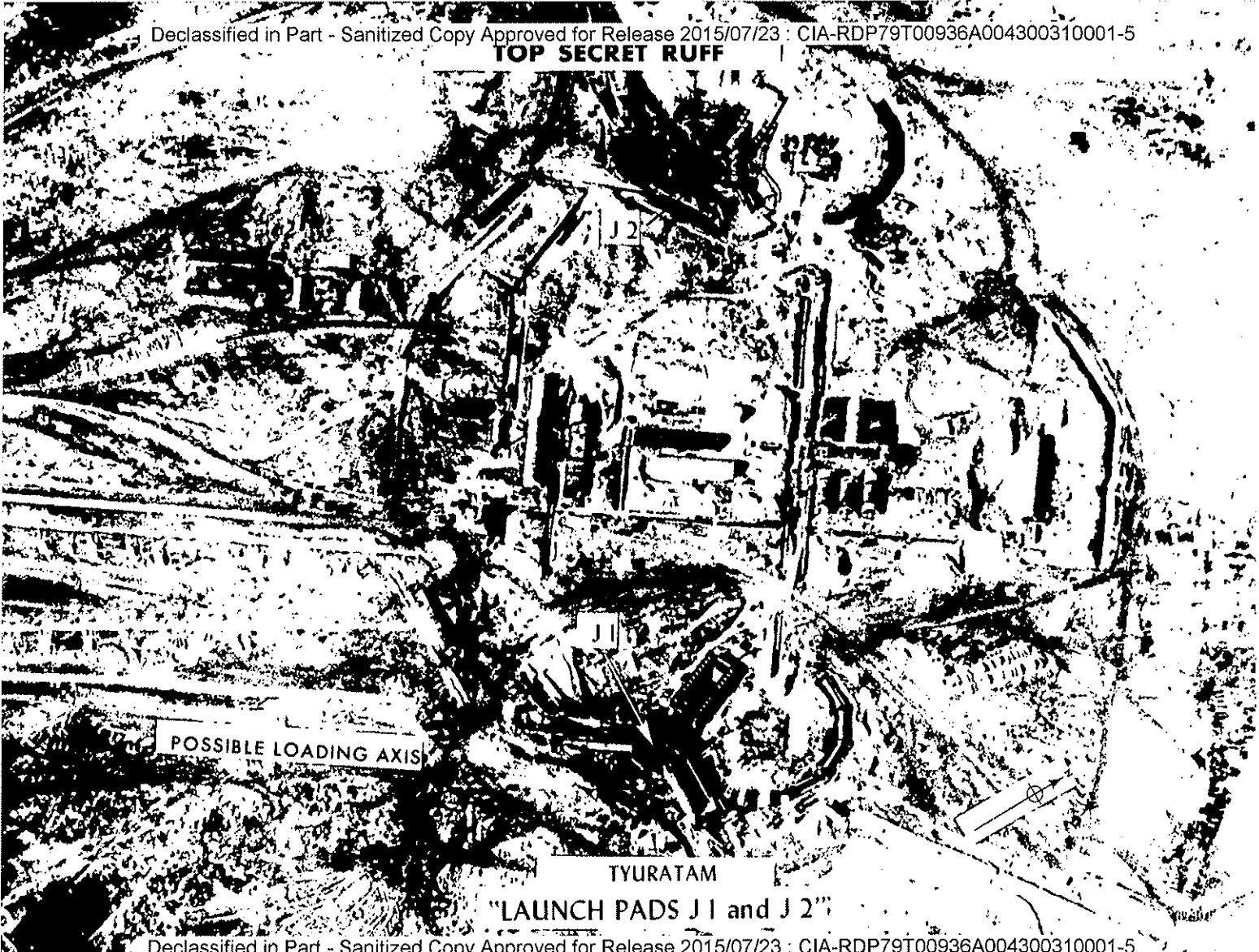
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TYURATAM

"LAUNCH PADS J 1 and J 2"

ANNEX

New Developments in the Soviet Space Program

The Soviets have been investing very heavily in the immense space launch Complex J at their Tyuratam missile test center. Construction was initiated in mid-1963 and has continued on a high-priority basis without interruption. The complex is now expected to become partially operational by the end of this year. The first launchings could take place early next year.

The most recent photographs of the two launch pads in Complex J (see attached [redacted] sketch)

[redacted] The nature and the size of the construction now indicate that the pads could handle space boosters developing thrusts as great as ten million pounds. By comparison, the Saturn V booster to be used in the US Apollo program develops 7.5 million pounds of thrust. The largest Soviet booster launched to date had a thrust estimated at between 2.5 and three million pounds.

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It will be possible to estimate more precisely the size of the booster once the gantry is built. Gantry tracks some 60 feet wide are now being installed between the launch sites and the massive missile assembly building some two miles away.

The twin launch pads are spaced only 1,700 feet apart. This suggests that the Soviets plan an unhurried launching program that does not require having two assembled boosters in place at the same time.

Housing facilities at Complex J provide an indication of the large number of personnel to be involved in the programs planned there. There is a "high-quality" apartment house project that could accommodate some 5,000 people and a barracks area with about the same capacity.

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ANNEX (Cont'd)

It is impossible at this point, of course, to be sure of the objectives of the space program planned for Complex J. The following would be among the feasible possibilities: manned lunar landings, sophisticated planetary probes, and the orbiting of large, manned space stations.

