

1. RECENT ACTIVITY ON THE TYURA TAM RANGE

Comment on:

[redacted] flight activity associated with the Tyura Tam-Klyuchi missile test range indicate that another ICBM test or an earth satellite launching attempt may occur in early December. As of 28 November, however, there were no indications of final preparations for a launching.

Recent movements by a CRATE (IL-14) transport associated with the Tyura Tam range also suggest a launching in early December. For unknown reasons, this aircraft has flown to Vladimirovka 10 to 15 days before the beginning of operational activity preceding each of the previous four Tyura Tam firings. Such a flight may have occurred on 21 November which could indicate operational range activity between 1 and 6 December. The possible occurrence of a similar flight on 26-29 November somewhat lessens the usefulness of the 10 to 15 day time scale in this case. However,

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the flights of this aircraft to Vladimirovka do suggest an intention to resume operational activity on the Tyura Tam range.

Within the past week, three aircraft associated with Tyura Tam have made flights for unknown purposes to Soviet facilities identified with bacteriological warfare activities and nuclear tests. On 24 November, a helicopter was scheduled for a flight to Vozrozhdeniya Island and from there to Tyura Tam. Vozrozhdeniya Island, located in the Aral Sea, is believed to be a BW field research station for the Soviet armed forces. On 28 and 29 November, a transport aircraft made a round trip from Dzhusaly which included Semipalatinsk and rangehead instrumentation sites. This flight was duplicated on 29 November by a second aircraft.

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