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SUPPLEMENT 8  
TO  
JOINT EVALUATION OF  
SOVIET MISSILE THREAT IN CUBA

PREPARED BY

Guided Missile and Astronautics Intelligence Committee  
Joint Atomic Energy Intelligence Committee  
National Photographic Interpretation Center

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Loss of U-2 Aircraft

35. Mission 3128, which was lost over Cuba, was intended to proceed on the track shown in Figure 4. No tracking of the U-2 has yet been recovered from the mission. There were no fighters noted in reaction to this flight. A possible "MERCURY GRASS" station which coordinates and passes SA-2 radar and tracking information was active passing range and azimuth information. As yet, there is no information available to indicate that this link was involved in tracking the U-2.

36. The planned track of the U-2 took it over, or within the range of, eight SA-2 sites at an estimated altitude of 72,000 feet. Assuming the mission flew the planned track, the U-2 overflew six SA-2 sites before the flight terminated in the vicinity of Banes on the north coast of Cuba. An SA-2 site is located near Banes and is believed to be operational. The SA-2 is estimated to have a maximum effective altitude capability of 60,000 feet and limited capability to 80,000 feet. The loss of the U-2 was probably caused by intercept by an SA-2 from the Banes site, or pilot hypoxia, with the former appearing more likely on the basis of the available information.

TACTICAL MISSILES

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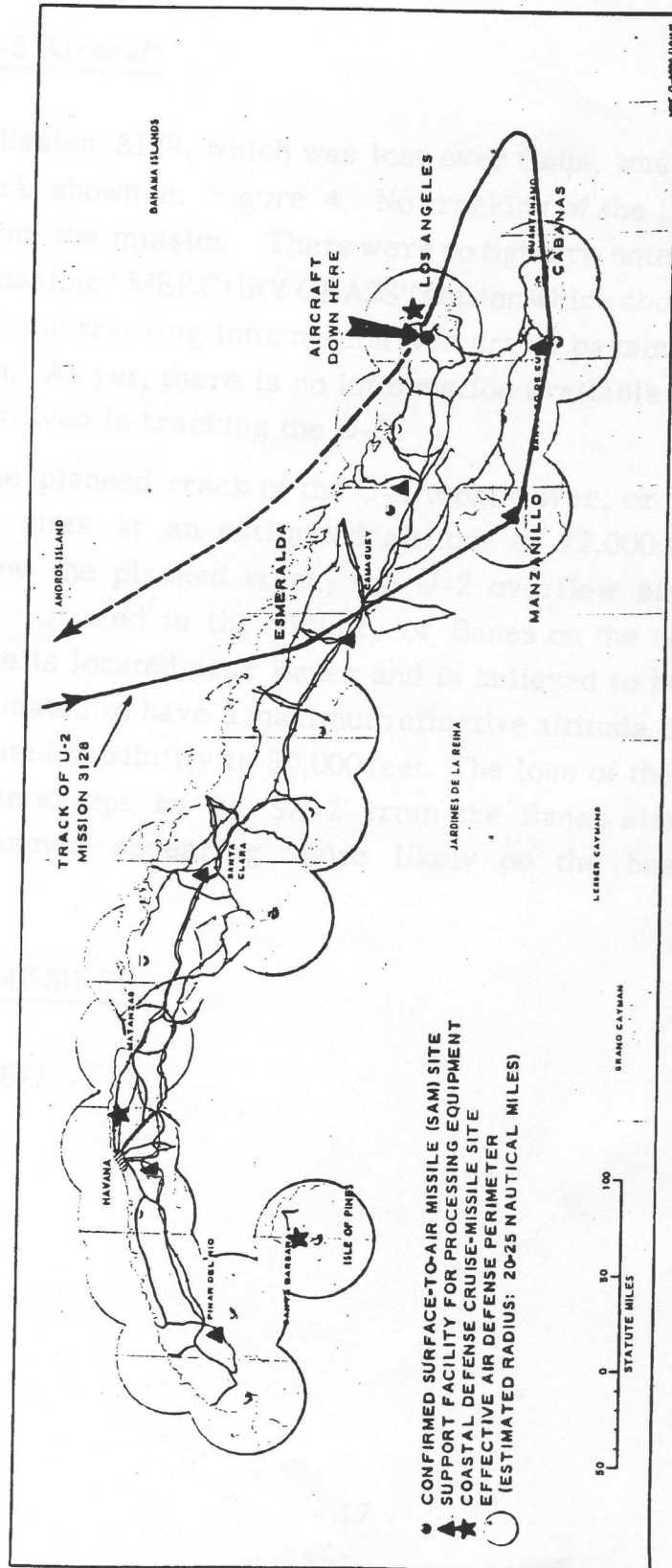


FIGURE 4. LOCATION OF DEFENSIVE MISSILE SITES IN CUBA.

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