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18 February 1956



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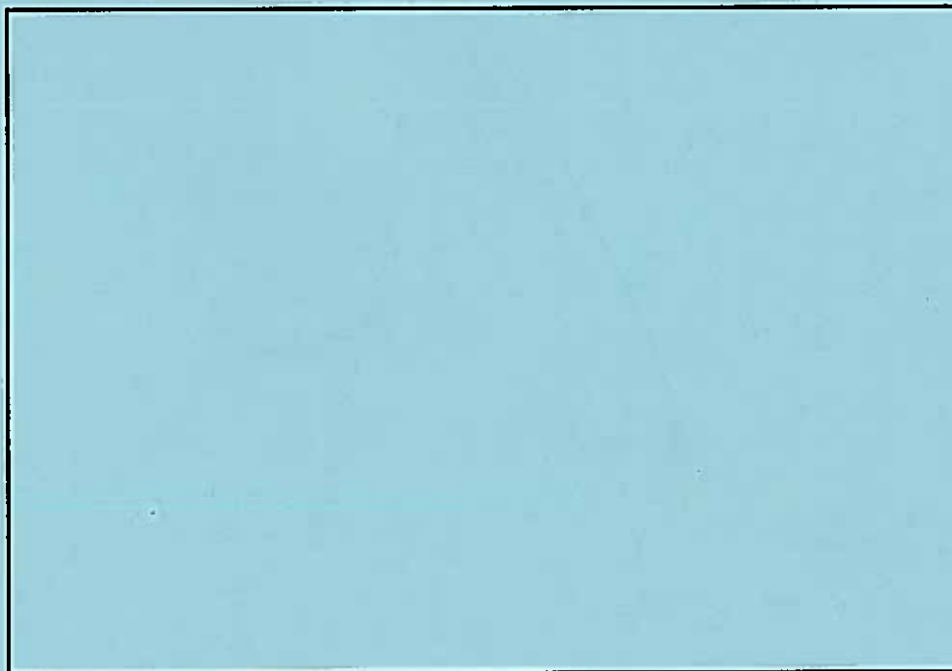
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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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DIA and DOS review(s) completed.

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**3. SOVIET JET HEAVY BOMBERS SIGHTED AT
LONG RANGE AIR FORCE BASE**

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On 10 February Western air attachés observed five, possibly six, BISON jet heavy bombers on Bykhov airfield near Smolensk. Two BISON or BADGER jet medium bombers with wing-tip tanks were seen on the airfield southwest of Orsha, also in the western USSR.

Comment

This is the first reported observation of jet heavy bombers at airfields on which Long Range Air Force bomber units are based. It is currently estimated that two bomber regiments of the Long Range Air Force are equipped with a total of 38 BISONs and that more than 70 could have been produced by 1 January 1956.

