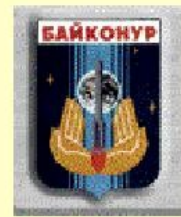


Jim Oberg  
'Earth Orbits'  
Copyright @ 2006



Symbols of the cosmodrome – the ‘fisherman’ (top), and pins & badges (‘*Weightlessness*’ was replaced by a military insignia, then restored)



Monument greets visitors on road from airport

In the semi-desert, growing things is HARD  
– so people TRY hard for greenery





# Tyura-Tam Village

Original Kazakh settlement along railway,  
now the non-Russian 'native quarters'

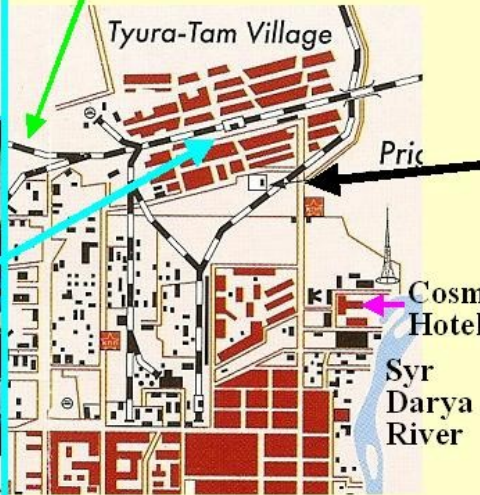
Main rail  
line to  
Tashkent,  
built in  
1890's

Main road to  
cosmodrome

Russian tourist poses in  
front of Tyura-Tam train  
station (rebuilt), the very  
first point of 'Baikonur'



©Roman Zlotnikov



'Baikonur City'  
(Russian Zone)



Note 'Kazakh' (modified cyrillic)  
spelling of the old town name  
TӨPETaM vs. TIOPATAM

“Father Stephen”

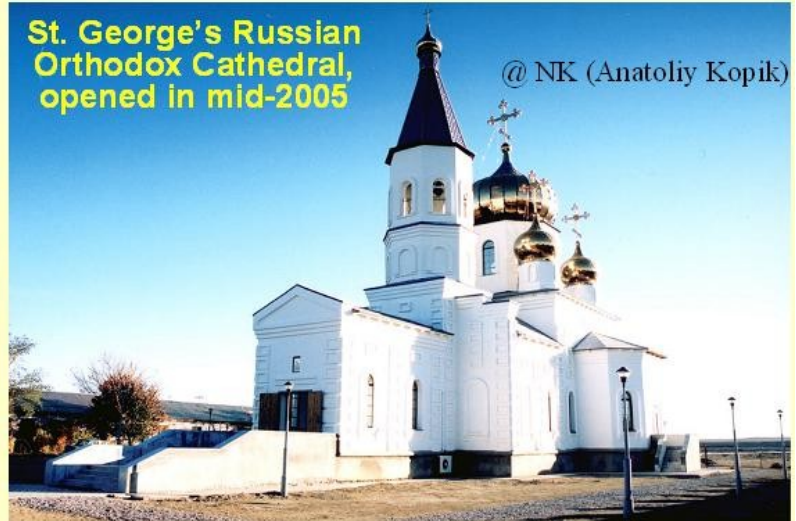


God comes  
to ‘Leninsk’



St. George's Russian  
Orthodox Cathedral,  
opened in mid-2005

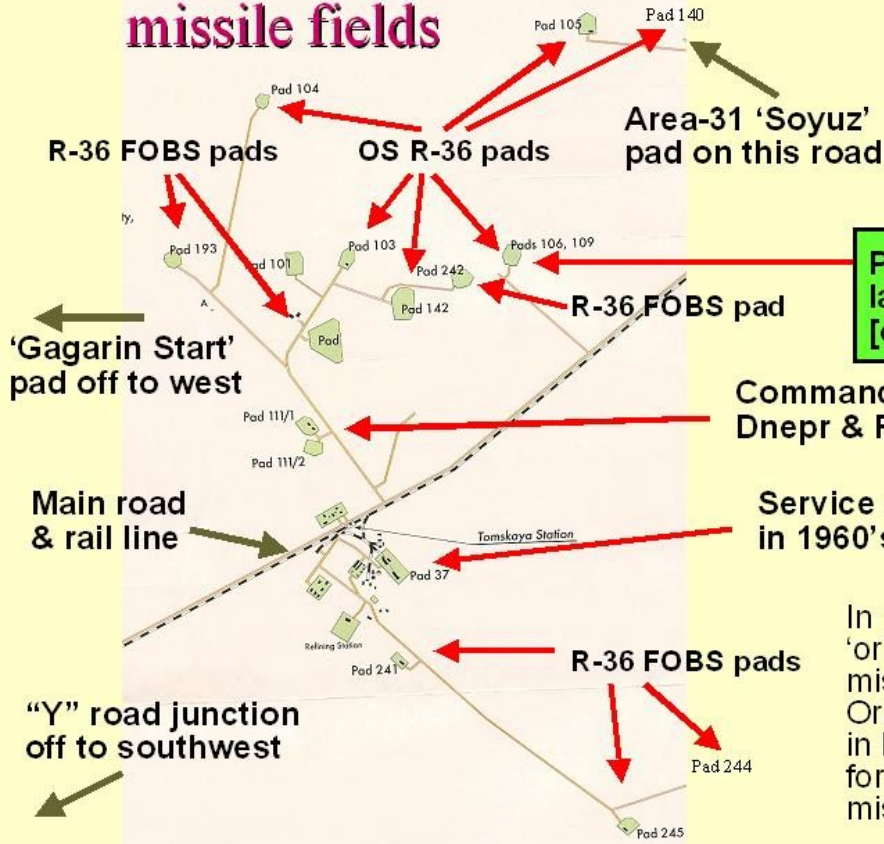
@ NK (Anatoliy Kopik)



Other scrapped missile silos are big gaping (and dangerous) holes

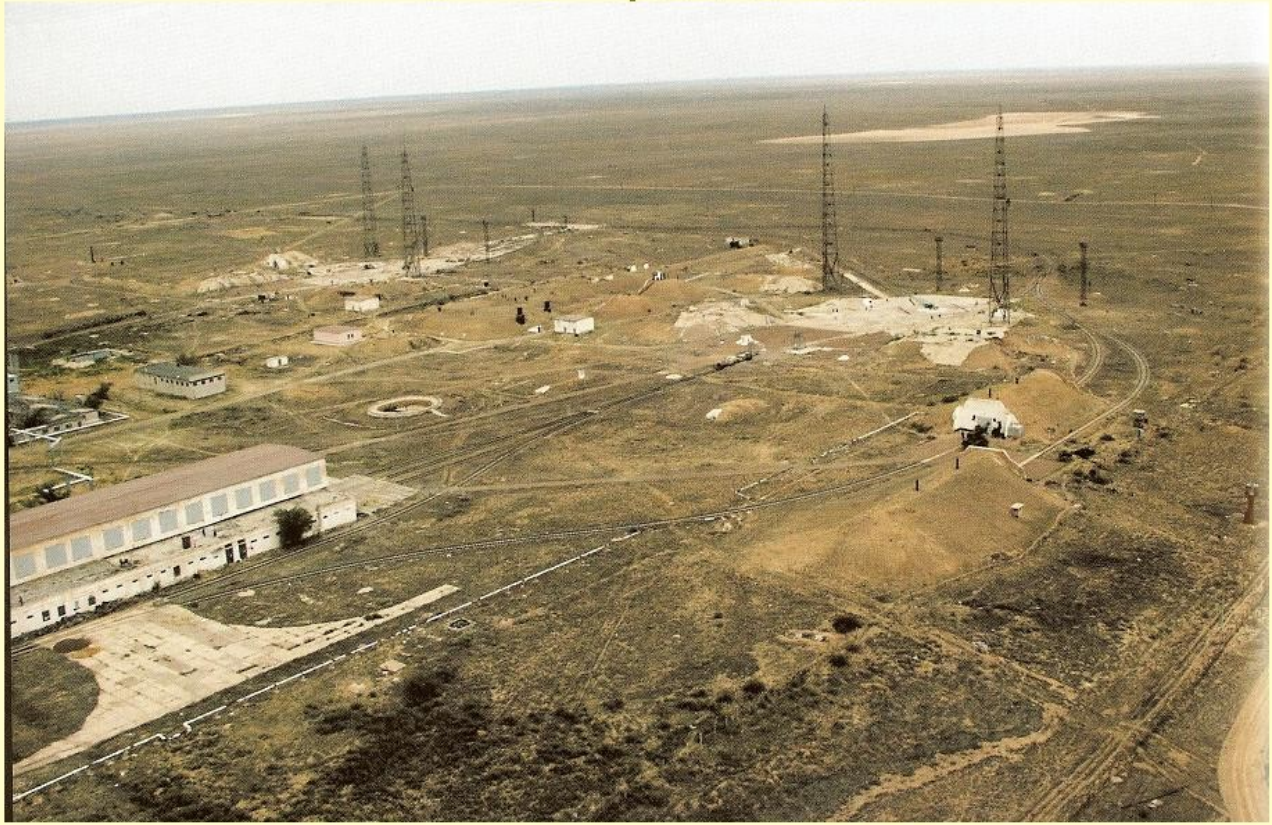


# “Near -East” missile fields



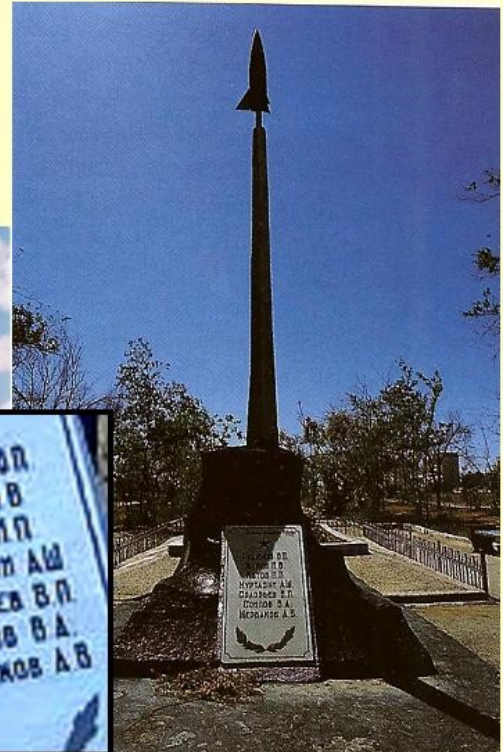
In 1960s, USSR deployed 'orbital thermonuclear missiles' (FOBS -- Fractional Orbit Bombardment System in Pentagon parlance) here for use in nuke first strike; missiles scrapped in 1970's

# Tsiklon pad area





# Memorial to seven dead crewmen in the city [no known monument at the actual disaster site]



# Zenit pad (Area-45)

Mobile service structure has a 'white room' for cosmonauts, but it was never used

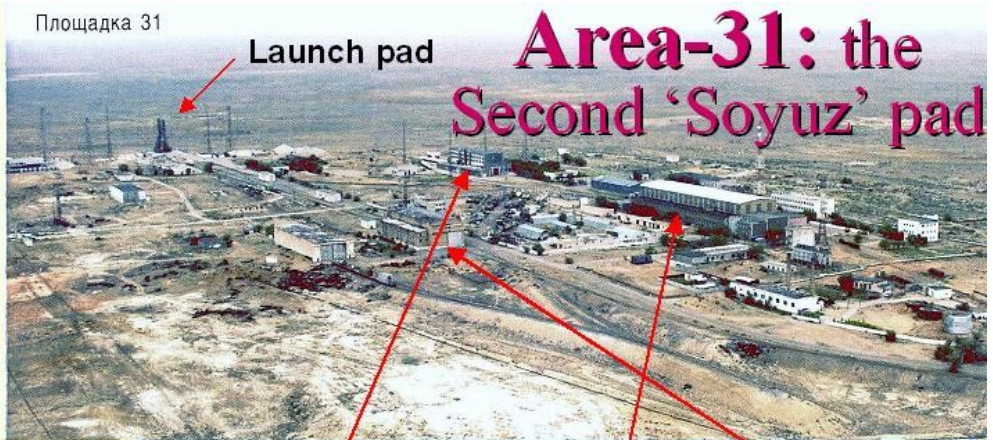


Note human figures here...





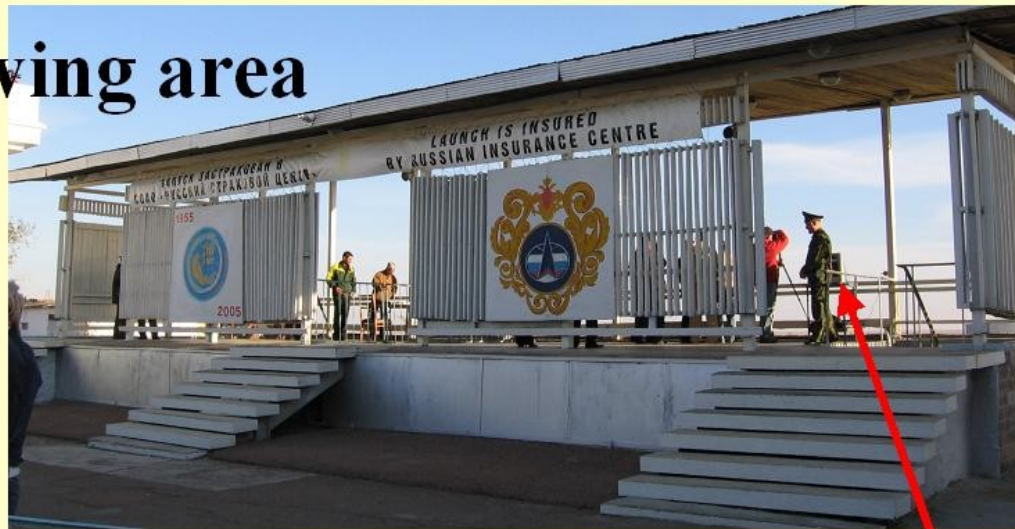
Used for unmanned satellites including 'Progress' freighters; some manned Soyuz missions in 1970's



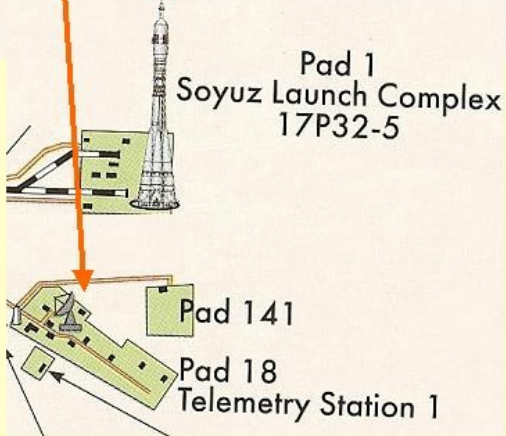
# Viewing area

ROCKET  
GOES  
HERE

YOU  
ARE  
HERE



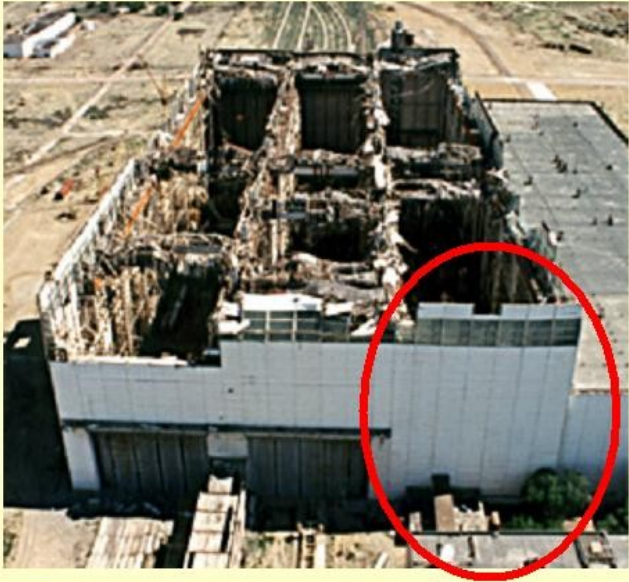
TV SET HERE



Television sets on  
viewing platform  
showed live images  
from on board Soyuz



## On-going repair on Bldg 110



Uncollapsed wall (top L) was torn down (top R); At other end, similar work performed to reinforce stability of remaining still-functioning halls (see left and right views).





“The Ghost Pad” -- Few changes in 45 years, but one can still feel ghosts

*Two views made only a few meters -- but almost half a century -- apart...*



A photographer named V.A. Anokhin was making a film record of launch preparations. This is a still from his film (he survived), only recently released.



# Launch pad souvenirs

Discarded hardware (explosive bolts, caps, nuts) and other junk



## The countryside.....



The 'Western tumbleweed' made famous in American movies and song is native to Central Asia and came to Texas in the 1800's stowed away on grain ships from Russia.





# A disaster to remember

