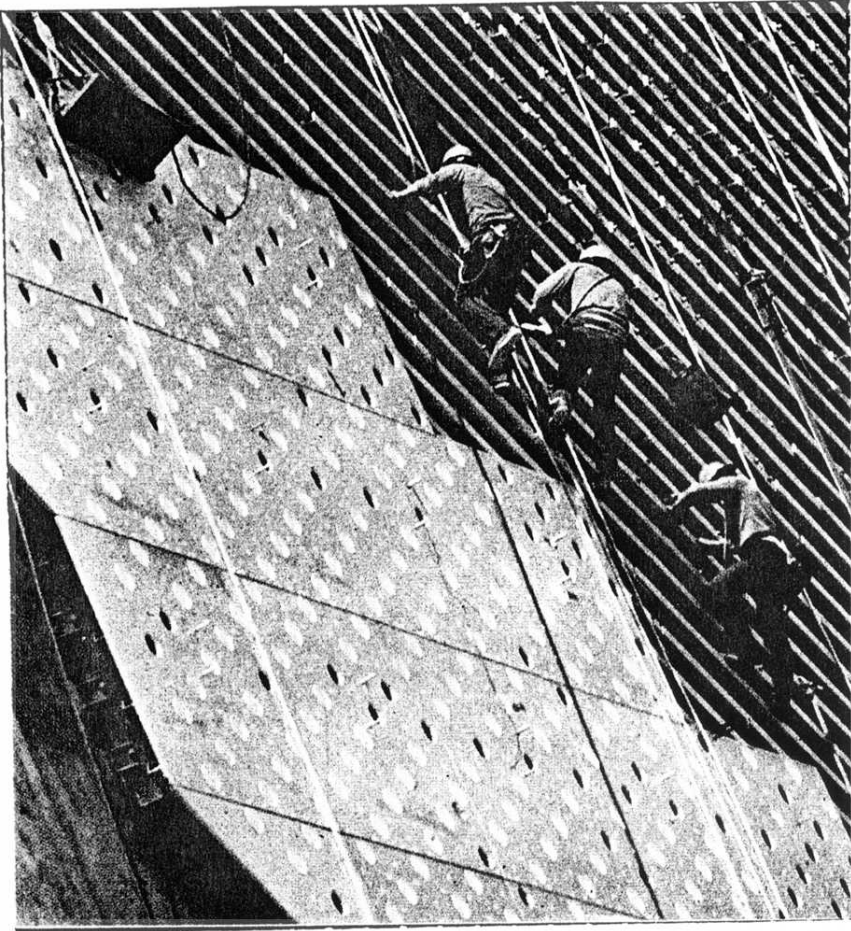
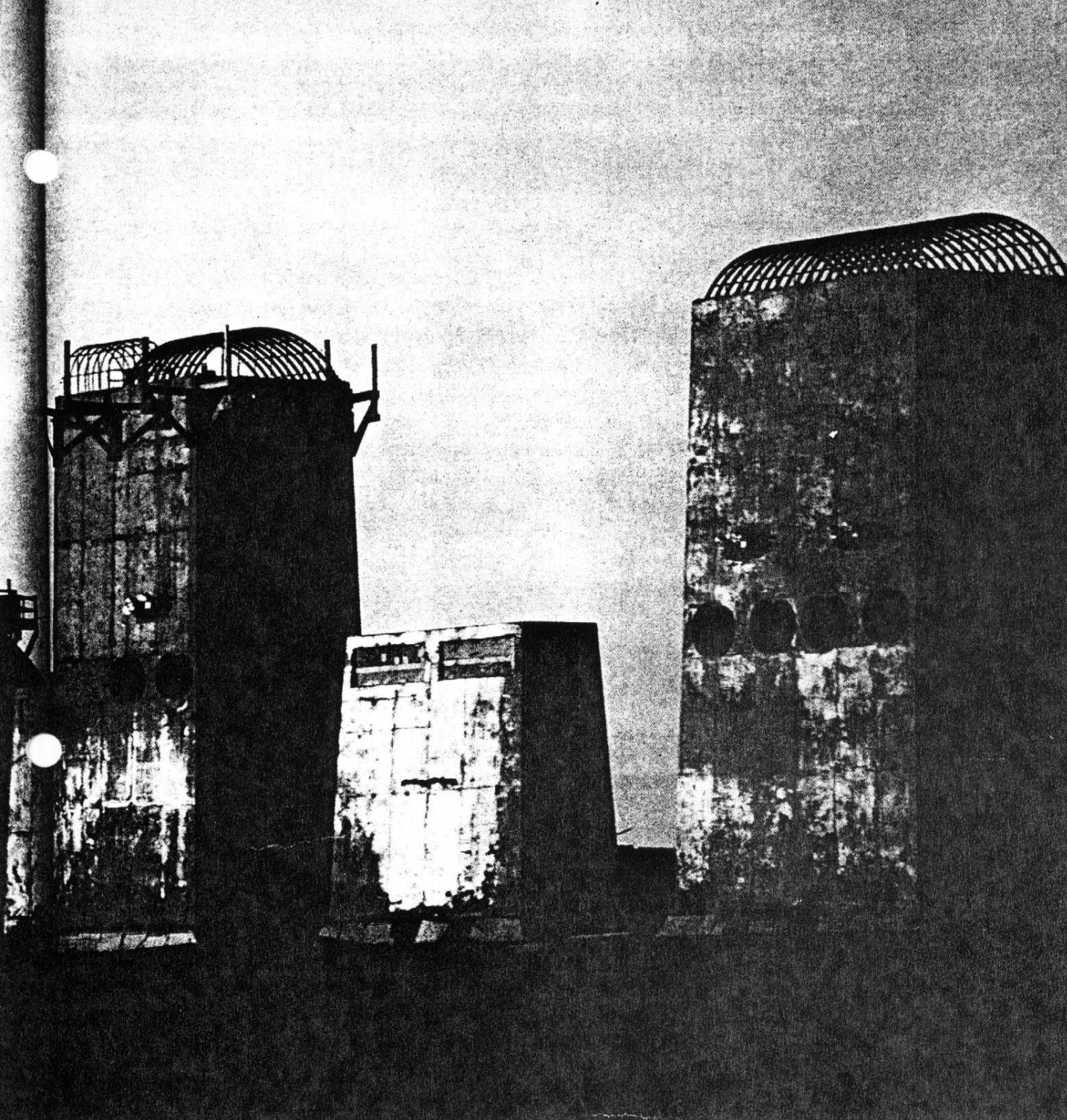


The first ABM - and the last?

The 'Temple' on the Plain





Some people in Langdon, N.Dak. refer to the bleak pyramidal computer center at left above as their "Mayan temple," and the reference is oddly apt. Since the House Appropriations Committee voted earlier this month to chop \$300 million from the Safeguard missile budget, the entire antiballistic missile complex rising near Langdon may indeed turn out to be a unique relic, the lone survivor of a vast idea. When first proposed in 1969, the ABM Safeguard system was to consist of 12 sites, placed

so as to protect key military installations from incoming enemy missiles. The arms limitation agreement signed last spring in Moscow reduced the number to only two—one near Langdon, the other outside Washington. Now, if Congress approves the budget cut, the Washington complex will not be built and this 98-missile project, with its Stonehenge-like ventilators (above) and its massive radar upon which workers clamber like insects (inset left), will be not only the first U.S. ABM base, but the last.