

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTERPRETATION REPORT



POSSIBLE
NUCLEAR POWERPLANT
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
NEAR BILIBINO, USSR

Declass Review by
NIMA/DOD

TCS-80477/66

JUNE 1966

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5 PAGES

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**POSSIBLE NUCLEAR POWERPLANT
UNDER CONSTRUCTION
NEAR BILIBINO, USSR**

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Aerial photography of a 15-nautical mile (nm) radius of Bilibino, USSR, (68-02N 166-20E) has been searched for construction activity that could be associated with a nuclear powerplant.

KEYHOLE photography covered approximately 85 percent of this area and revealed that construction activity near the perimeter of the search area at approximately 68-08N 165-49E could be a possible nuclear powerplant (Figure 1). The construction activity, including a construction camp, is located about 15 nm northwest of the town of Bilibino. Because the facilities observed at this site are still in the early stages of construction, it is not possible to confirm the function of the installation as a nuclear powerplant or to determine when such a plant would be operational. The interpretability and obliquity of the photography preclude the mensuration of the facilities observed at the site.

The town of Bilibino is situated in hilly terrain at the confluence of 2 streams, about 9 nm north-northeast of Keperveyem (Figures 1 and 2). An airstrip for local use only serves Bilibino. Several mining areas are located northwest of Bilibino. Roads and probable powerline traces extending eastward from Bilibino are similar to those extending from Bilibino to the mining areas.

The site of the construction activities

which may be associated with a nuclear powerplant is located on a terrace at the foot of low hills separating 2 streams (Figures 3). The site is connected to Bilibino and Keperveyem by a road. It contains a construction camp, a small secured probable substation, and construction activity which may be for a small, package-type, air- or gas-cooled reactor.* No construction associated with a water coolant circulation system is evident. However, such a system would be impractical because of the extreme winter temperatures in this area (-30° to -40°C). The construction for the possible small nuclear powerplant appears to be heavy concrete; there is no evidence indicating that it is connected with mining or ore processing.

Since all equipment needed for the installation of a nuclear powerplant in the hinterland of the Arctic probably must be packaged to be flown to the site, a search was made for facilities which could be used by aircraft capable of transporting such equipment. The airstrip at Bilibino cannot accommodate such aircraft. Grading for a possible airstrip was observed about 3 nm northwest of the construction site. Until this facility is complete and serviceable, the installation of a nuclear reactor in this area does not appear to be feasible.

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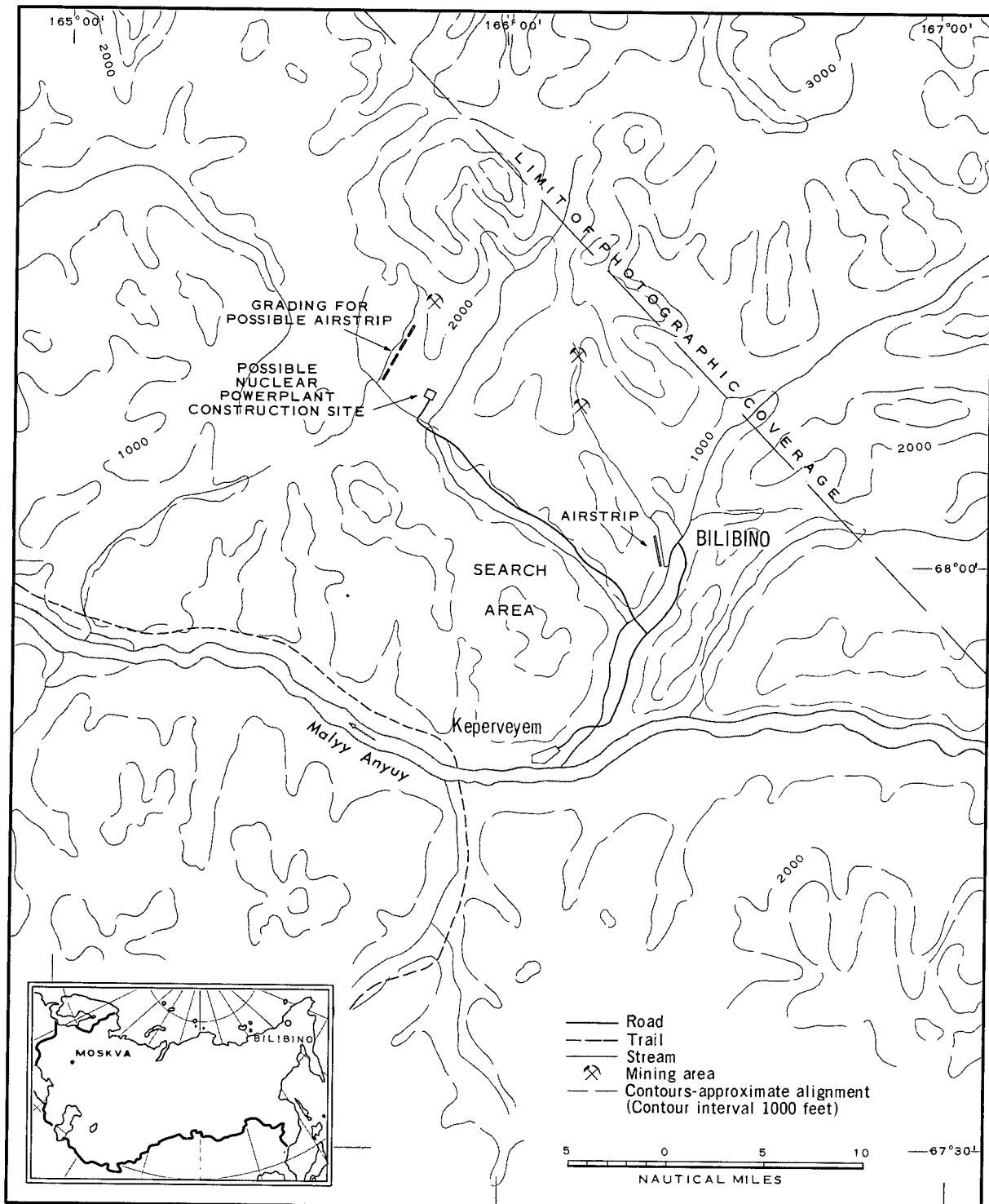


FIGURE 1. LOCATION MAP.

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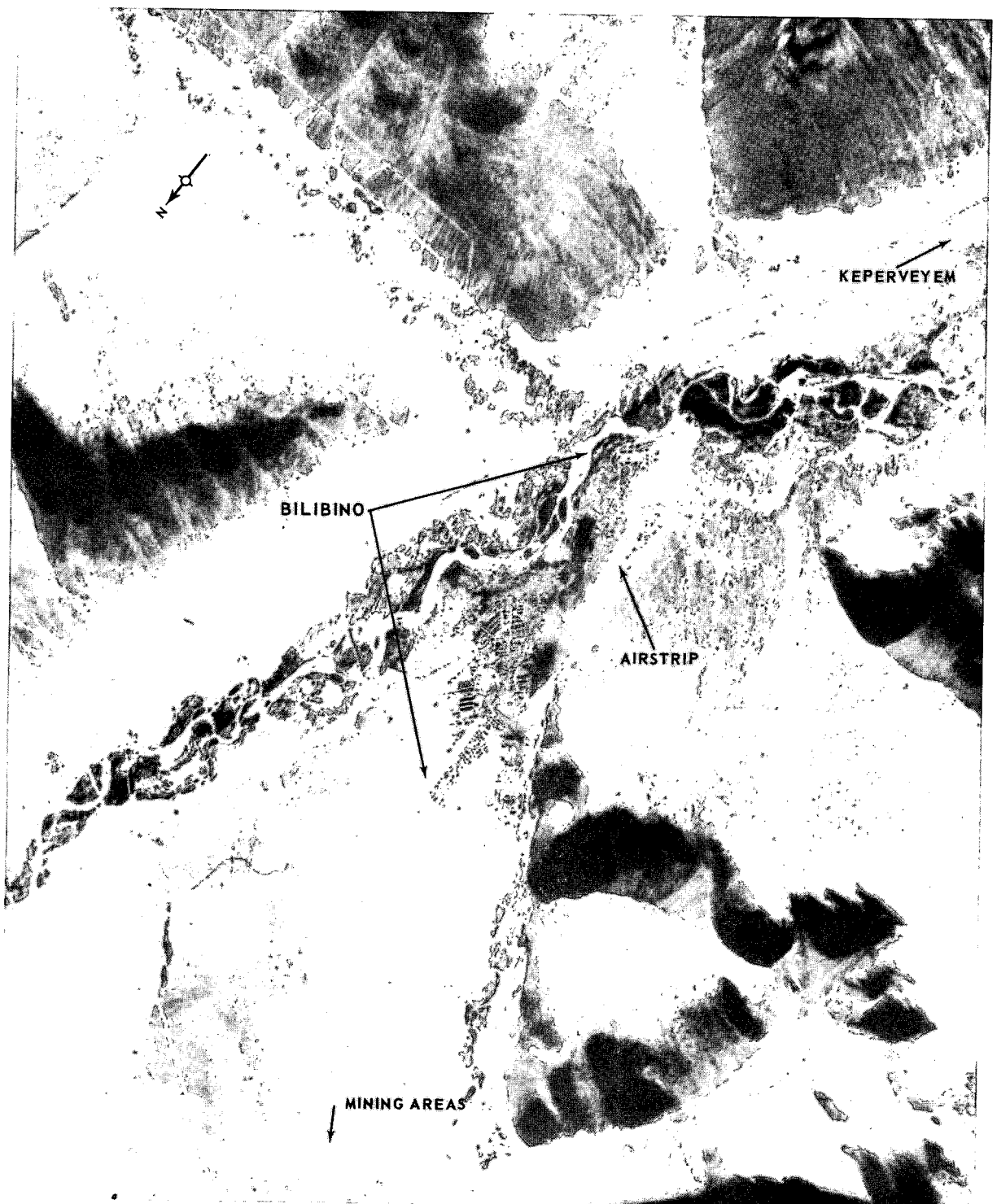


FIGURE 2. BILIBINO, USSR

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FIGURE 2. BILIBINO, USSR

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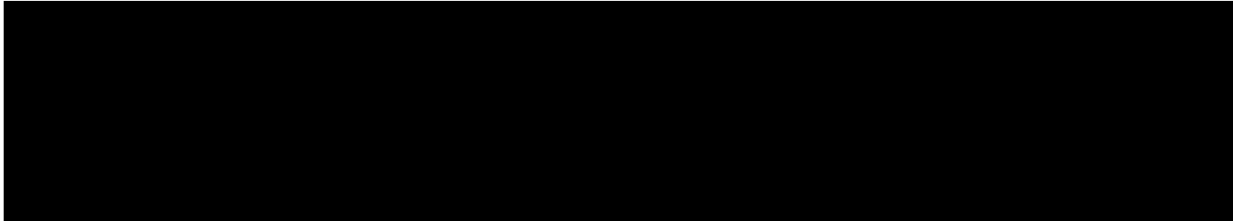
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REFERENCES



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CHART

USAF. ONC, Sheet C-7, 1st classified ed, 24 Feb 60, scale 1:1,000,000 (CONFIDENTIAL)

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