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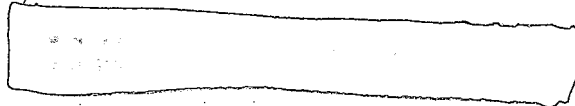


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IMAGERY  
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DIVISION

PIR

PHOTOGRAPHIC INTELLIGENCE REPORT



SHIH-MEN NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT

SHIH-MEN, CHINA

Declass Review by  
NIMA/DOD



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CIA / PIR 65082

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DATE FEB. 1966

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GROUP 1  
Excluded from automatic  
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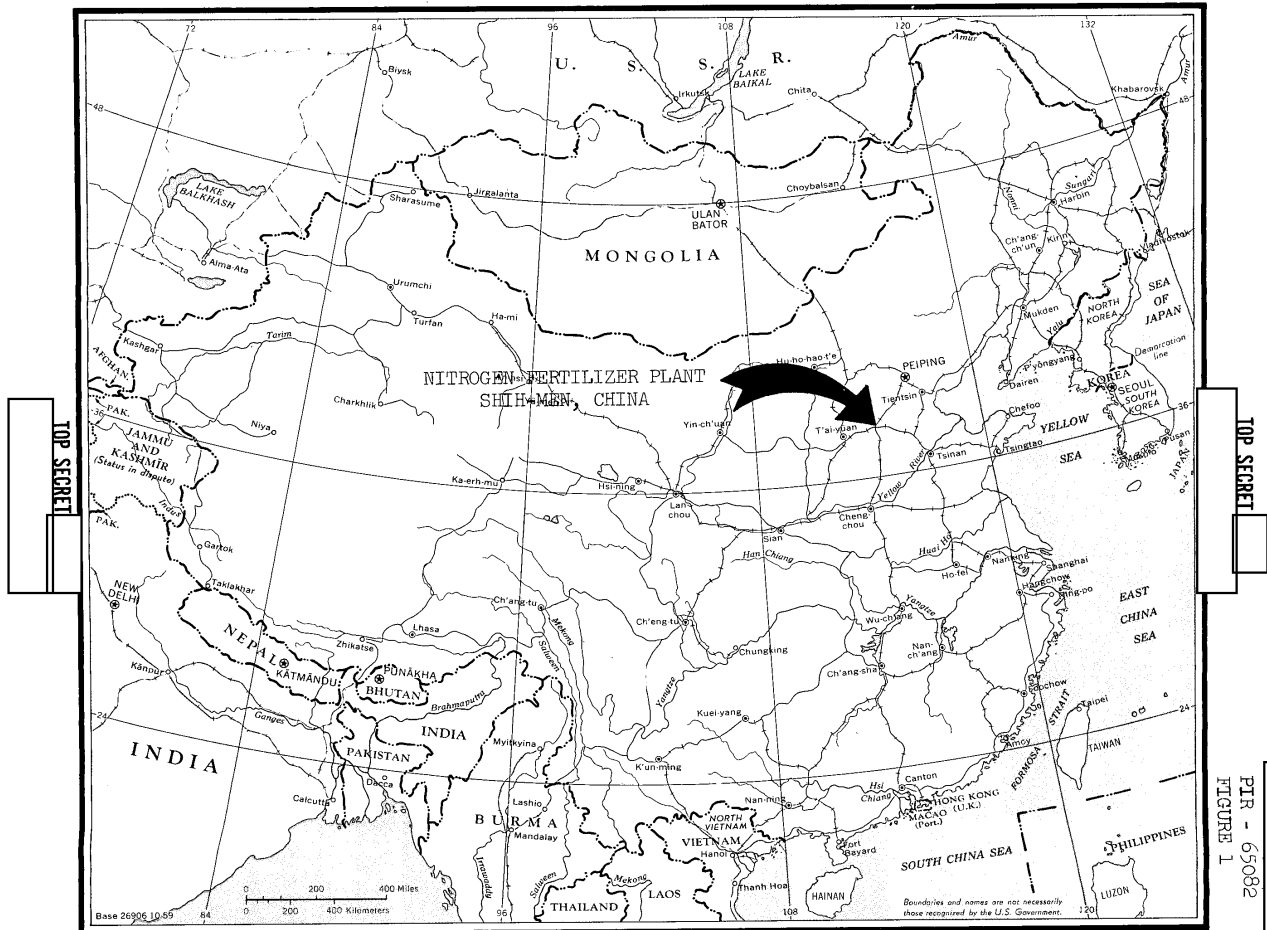
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FIGURE 1

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NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT  
 Shih-men, China  
 38 04N - 114 32E

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SHIH-MEN NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT  
SHIH-MEN, CHINA

A nitrogenous fertilizer plant is located in the northeast outskirts of Shih-men, approximately 5 nautical miles directly east of the south end of the main runway at Shih-men airfield, at the approximate geographic coordinates of 38 04N - 114 32E.

Photography from missions of [redacted] was examined in order to follow the development of this plant through the various stages of construction. Included with this report are photographic enlargements from [redacted] and satellite mission [redacted] (Figures 3 and 4), which span the period of special interest.

When first observed in mid-1959, the Shih-men nitrogen fertilizer plant was in the early stages of construction. By [redacted] most major buildings in the production area were under construction. On photographic coverage of [redacted] (Figure 3), this plant had reached the middle to late stages of construction. Most major features in the production sections were under construction and in some cases appeared to be nearing completion. The production sections and changes or additions to the plant between [redacted] [redacted] are noted in the following descriptions which are keyed to figure 4:

1) This section produces the hydrogen gas for the synthesis of ammonia. Facilities present include: a coal processing building and open coal storage, a boiler house, retort building, and facilities for processing and storing gas. Construction on this section was in an advanced state in [redacted] with only the coal processing area still in the early stages of construction.

2) The ammonia synthesis section contains a large compressor building with an attached ammonia converter. Adjacent units are probably gas purification and separation facilities. Visible changes in this area between [redacted] include: probable scrubbing towers attached to the compressor building and an unidentified small processing unit north of the compressor building.

3) This is a possible nitric acid production section. The silo-like objects are possibly nitric acid absorption towers.

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Other features in this section are a large waste disposal stack and processing buildings. No major external changes have been made in this area since [redacted]

4) The nitrogenous fertilizer section, possibly producing ammonium nitrate, includes: a reactor building connected by conveyor to the nearby rail served fertilizer storage, packaging, and shipping building. Two small structures erected south of the reactor building after [redacted] possibly include acid storage tanks. No other changes were noted in this section.

The remaining portion of this installation appears to contain mainly administrative and other types of support buildings, rather than production facilities. A very large rail served possible warehouse, erected west of the ammonia synthesis section and two probable administration buildings south of the plant entrance are the major additions to these support facilities between 1963 [redacted]

In general, the construction of this installation has proceeded at a slow pace. The main structures in the production sections appeared to be nearing completion by [redacted] however, the first indication of productive activity, open coal storage near the coal processing building does not appear until [redacted] coverage. No significant additions are apparent between [redacted]

At least some production is probably taking place at this plant, the best indicator being the slightly changed configuration of the gas holders on comparative coverage from [redacted]



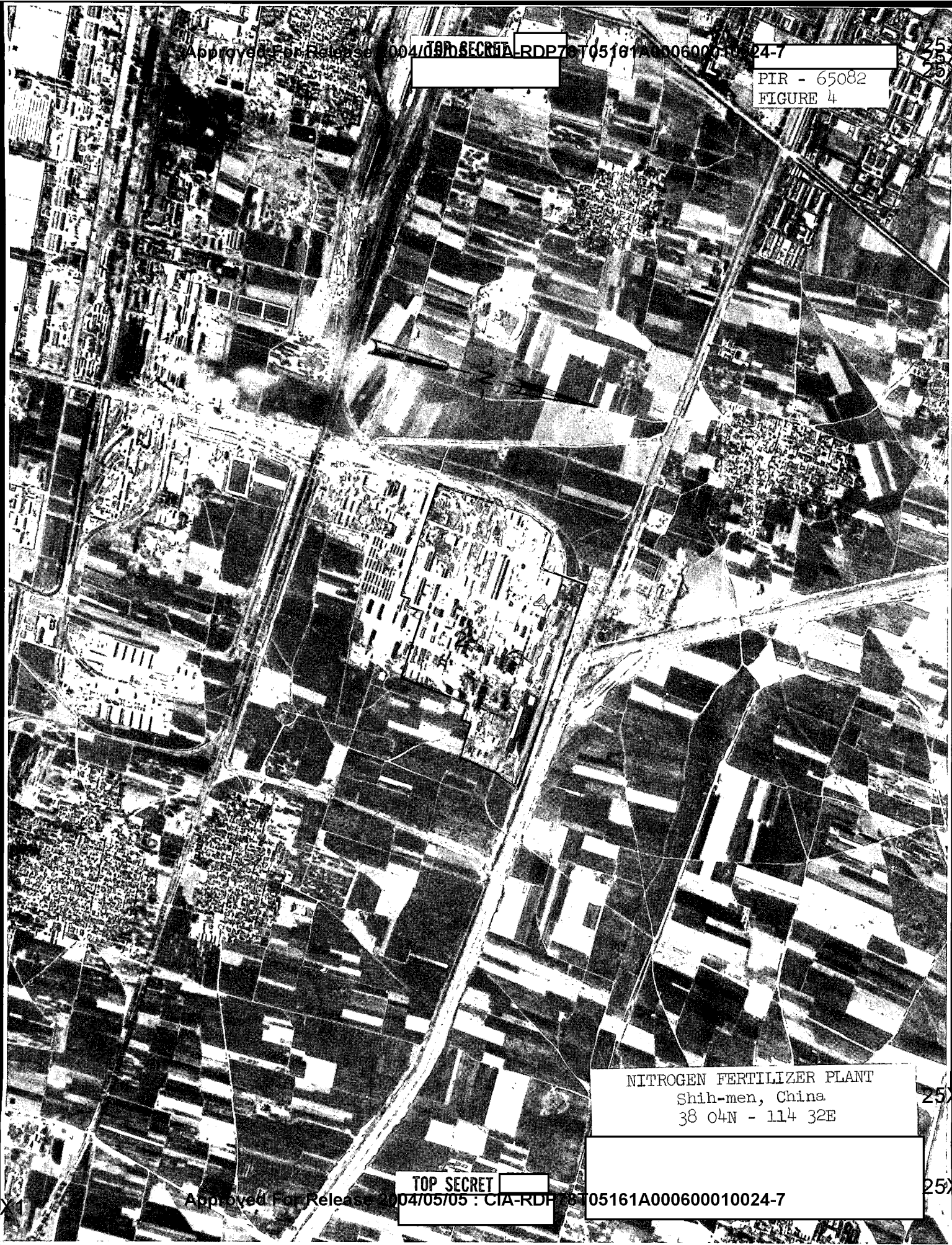
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FIGURE 4

NITROGEN FERTILIZER PLANT  
Shih-men, China  
38 04N - 114 32E

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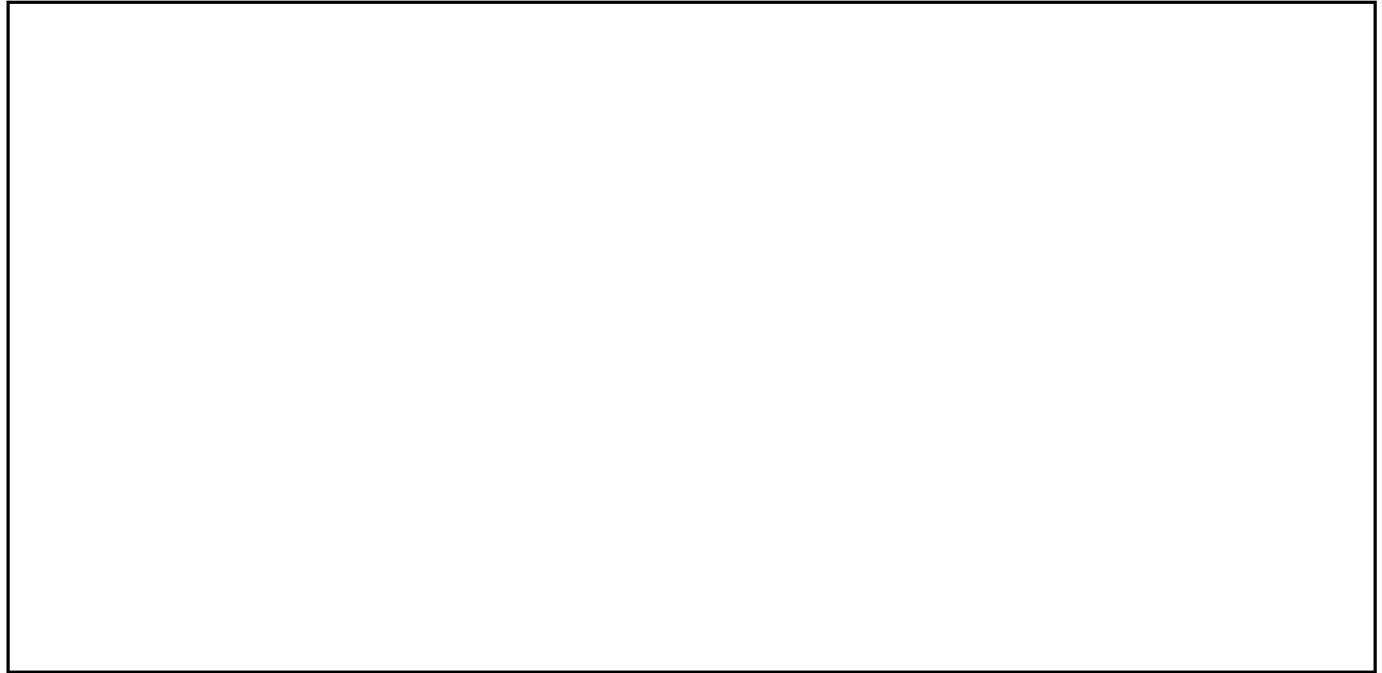


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REFERENCES

25X



MAPS OR CHARTS

Locator Map, Communist China, 26906, 10-59 (NOT CLASSIFIED)

ACIC, US Air Target Chart, Series 200, Sheet 0382-14AL, 2nd Edition,  
February 1961, Scale 1:200,000 (SECRET)

REQUIREMENT

CIA C-RR5-83,036

PROJECT

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