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Next 1 Page(s) In Document Exempt

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TCS No. 1282/64-KH
IB No. 87/64
17 February 1964
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MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Military Economics Division, ORR

25X1A ATTENTION : ██████████ M/FW
THROUGH : Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance Group, CGS
FROM : Chief, CIA/PID (NPIC)
SUBJECT : Helwan, UAR (Egypt) Aircraft Industry
REFERENCES : (1) Requirement No. C-RR3-80,835
(2) Project No. C 1706/63

1. This memorandum is in response to the above referenced requirement calling for a detailed, chronological analysis of the Helwan Aircraft and Engine Plant located approximately 15 nm south of Cairo, UAR at coordinates 29 50N - 31 19E. It was also requested that "teleprompter" slides of the graphic portion of this study be supplied to the requester as well as a "minicard" copy of the entire memorandum to ██████████ both of ORR.

25X1D 2. The photography used in this memorandum consisted of 13 different missions spanning a period of ██████████. A chronological discussion of each mission is as follows:

25X1D a. ██████████ (CIA/PID/IB-P-261/64) - Helwan Airfield was an operational Egyptian Air Force station utilizing British Spitfire Fighter Aircraft. Construction activity consisted of: a large assembly building, a machine shop, and a warehouse very near completion and the foundation of an administration and/or research building. Large amounts of building materials were stored at the rail spur and at the building sites.

25X1D b. ██████████ (CIA/PID/IB-P-262/64) - Helwan continued its role as an operational air station as nine aircraft (six Spitfire and three unidentified) were observed in the hangar area and the normal military recreational facilities (soccer field, basketball court, sports track, and swimming pool) were in evidence. The structures that were under construction on the previous coverage, though appearing to be complete, were not producing. New construction at this time consisted of a machine shop/workshop (complete) and the foundations for two unidentified, heavily bunkered buildings. There was a very obvious lack of building materials anywhere in the area.

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c. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-263/64) - It was at this time that Helwan no longer appeared to be operational. There were no aircraft or vehicles visible. The only construction activity was on the two unidentified bunkered buildings which appeared to be nearing completion.

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d. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-264/64) - Helwan, at this time, began to take on the appearance of an aircraft plant with a new engine test facility, a new research laboratory, and an engine assembly building (under construction). Also added in the [REDACTED] gap in the photographic coverage was a security fence, with ten guard towers, surrounding the production area. Landscaping also became evident at this time. There was, however, no visual evidence of any production taking place.

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e. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-265/64) - At the end of another [REDACTED] gap in aerial surveillance little change had taken place. Two new machine shops had been added and the engine assembly building was complete. There was however, a large concentration of earth-moving equipment at the southeast end of one of the four old runways.

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f. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-266/64) - Just a few [REDACTED] from the previous coverage work was begun on a new runway and taxiway. This is a completely new runway and not an extension of an existing one. It is being built on a different axis and wider and thicker than any existing one at the time. Change was also taking place in the factory complex in the form of roof modifications to the large assembly building and the nearby machine shop. Roof monitors, probably for increased ventilation were being installed.

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g. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-267/64) - Helwan at this point, with its new runway 8,200' x 150' (asphalt with concrete ends) and a new concrete apron, covering approximately ten acres, on the south side of the factory complex, appears to be ready for production. The only evidence of this production in an unidentified aircraft, possibly a mock-up of the Messerschmitt designed HA-300, parked near the large assembly building.

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h. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-268/64) - Very little change has taken place in the [REDACTED] since the previous coverage with the exception of the removal of some warehouses in the center of the factory complex. The same unidentified aircraft as described in paragraph

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g. is in approximately the same position as it was [REDACTED] previous. A possible Spanish CASA-202 transport aircraft is undergoing repairs near the large hangar on the southwest edge of the factory complex.

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i. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-269/64) - A new three story "L"-shaped research building and a small hangar were constructed during the [REDACTED] interval in photographic coverage. Other than two warehouses that are under construction, there are no signs of activity.

TOP SECRET CASAS 187F

TOP SECRET UNCLASSIFIED

TCS No. 1282/64-KH
Page 3

25X1D

j. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-270/64) - A large fabrication building seen for the first time on this mission, with nearly 257,000 square feet of floorspace was approximately fifty percent completed. Also under construction at this time was a machine shop/workshop.

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k. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-271/64) - New test facilities (NPIC H-7564) highlight the extensive expansion activity that took place during the [REDACTED] interval of photographic coverage. These two new test facilities, one still under construction the date of this coverage, are very large compared to other test facilities through-out the world and it is believed that they will be used to test an entire weapons system i.e. engine, airframe, control surfaces ect. The large hangar and the two small hangars located on the southwest edge of the complex have probably been converted to storage buildings because the apron has been torn up for some unidentified construction. Other new structures include: one research building, four warehouses, two motor pool sheds, and a POL storage tank. The large fabrication building is very near completion and the machine shop/workshop mentioned in paragraph j has been completed.

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l. [REDACTED] (CIA/PID/IB-P-272/64) - As of this photographic mission (the latest available) all aforementioned construction activity has been completed except for the unidentified activity taking place on the concrete apron near the test facilities. There is, however, no indication of production.

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An annotated line drawing (CIA/PID/IB-P-273/64) has been provided along with a list of all structures, considered to be of importance, which includes: type, dimensions, number of floors, floorspace and volumn of each structure. The measurements given were taken from photographic mission [REDACTED] and are considered to be accurate [REDACTED] all heights.

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3. The requester, [REDACTED] reviewed the graphic portion of this memorandum on 13 February 1964 and was very pleased with the progress and content. Because of the additional work and minicarding required [REDACTED] extended the due date to 19 February 1964.

4. The photo analyst on this project was [REDACTED] who can be contacted on extension 2547, should any question concerning this memorandum arise. This requirement is considered complete.

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ENCLOSURES:

- 1 Annotated Map (CIA/PID/IB-P-260/64)
- 12 Annotated Photos (CIA/PID/IB-P-261/64 thru P-272/64 and P-275/64)
- 1 Annotated Drawing (CIA/PID/IB-P-273/64)

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CIA/PD-18 P-275/64

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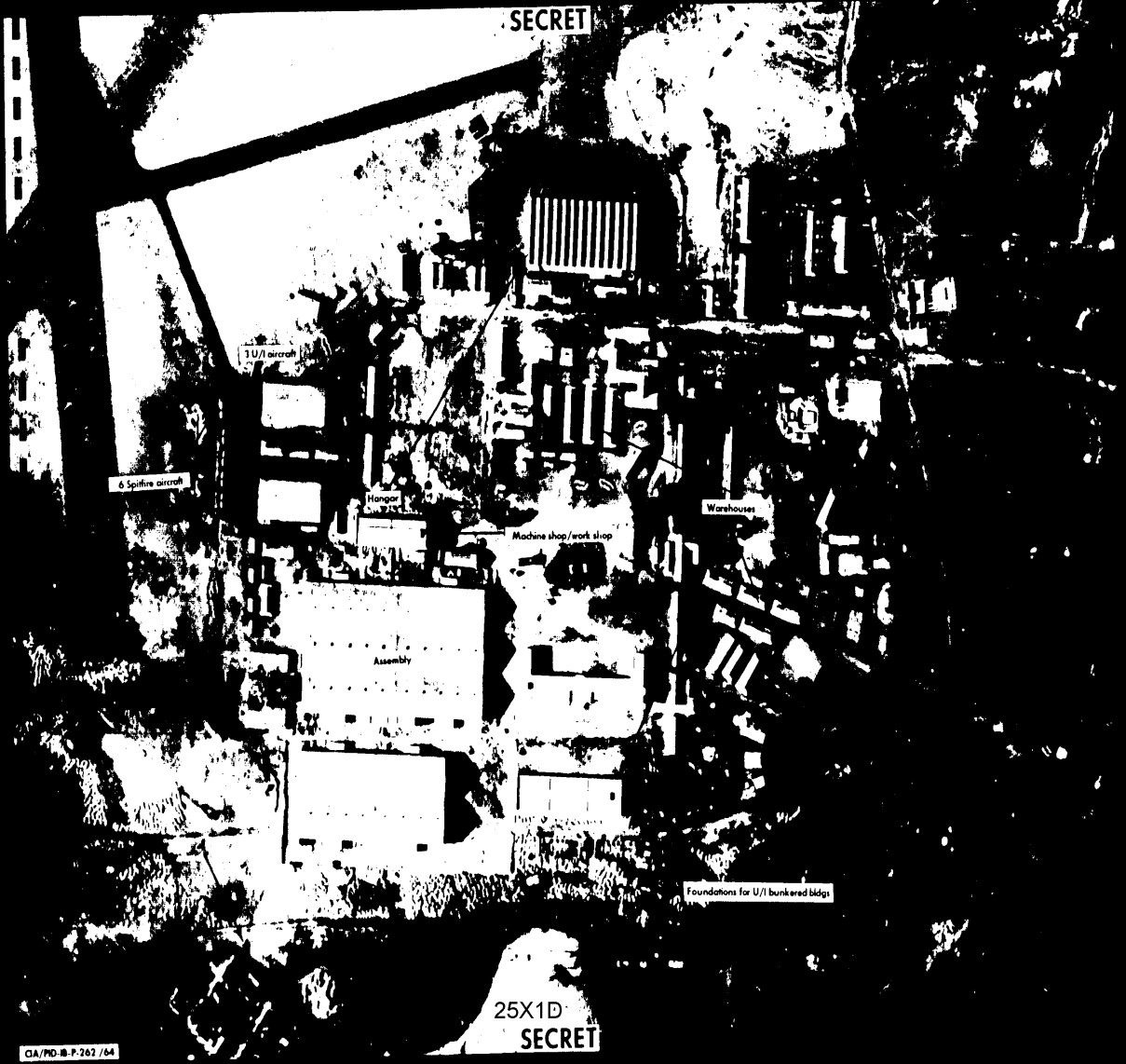
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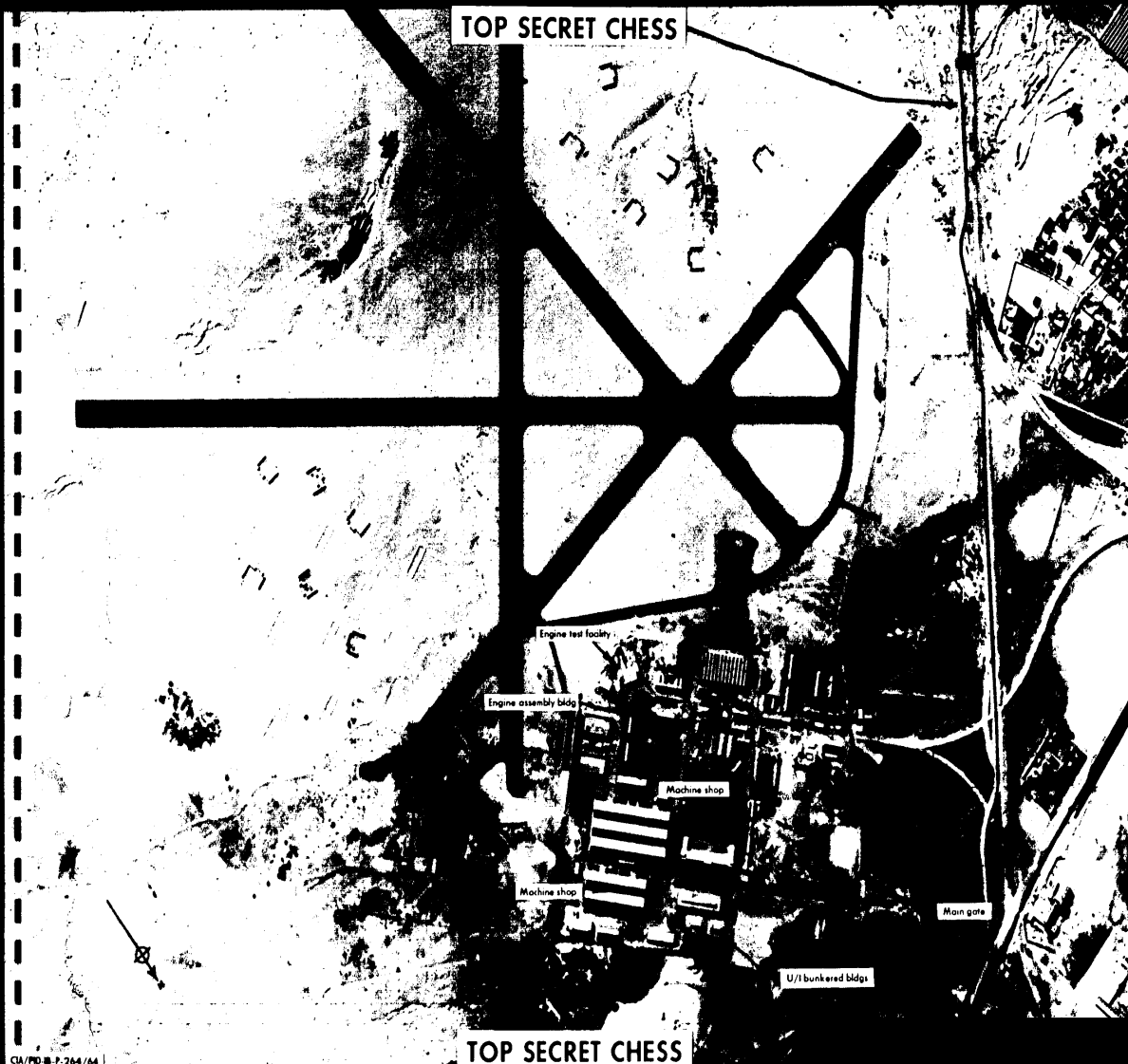
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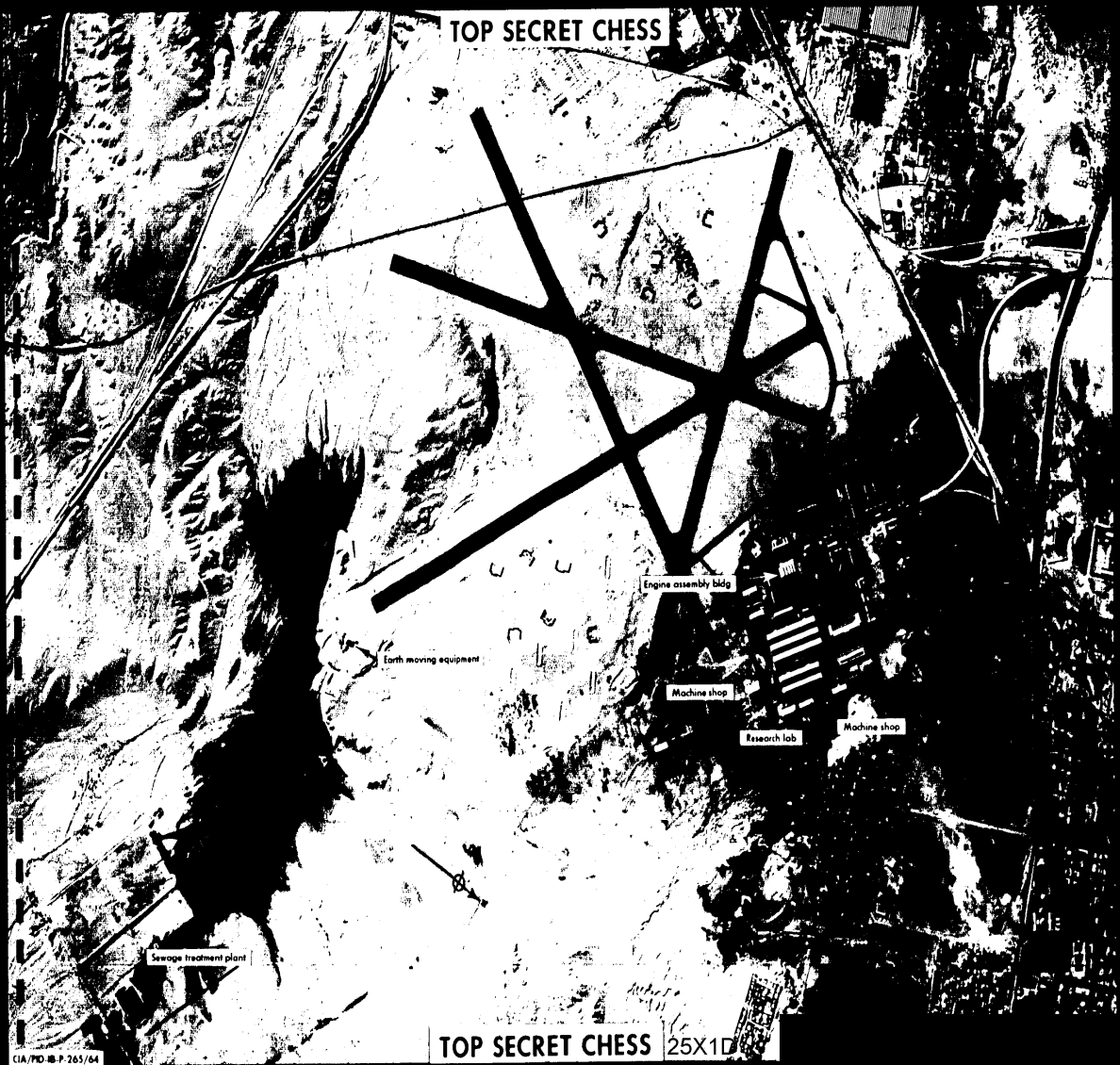
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Earth moving equipment

Engine assembly bldg

Machine shop

Research lab

Machine shop

Sewage treatment plant

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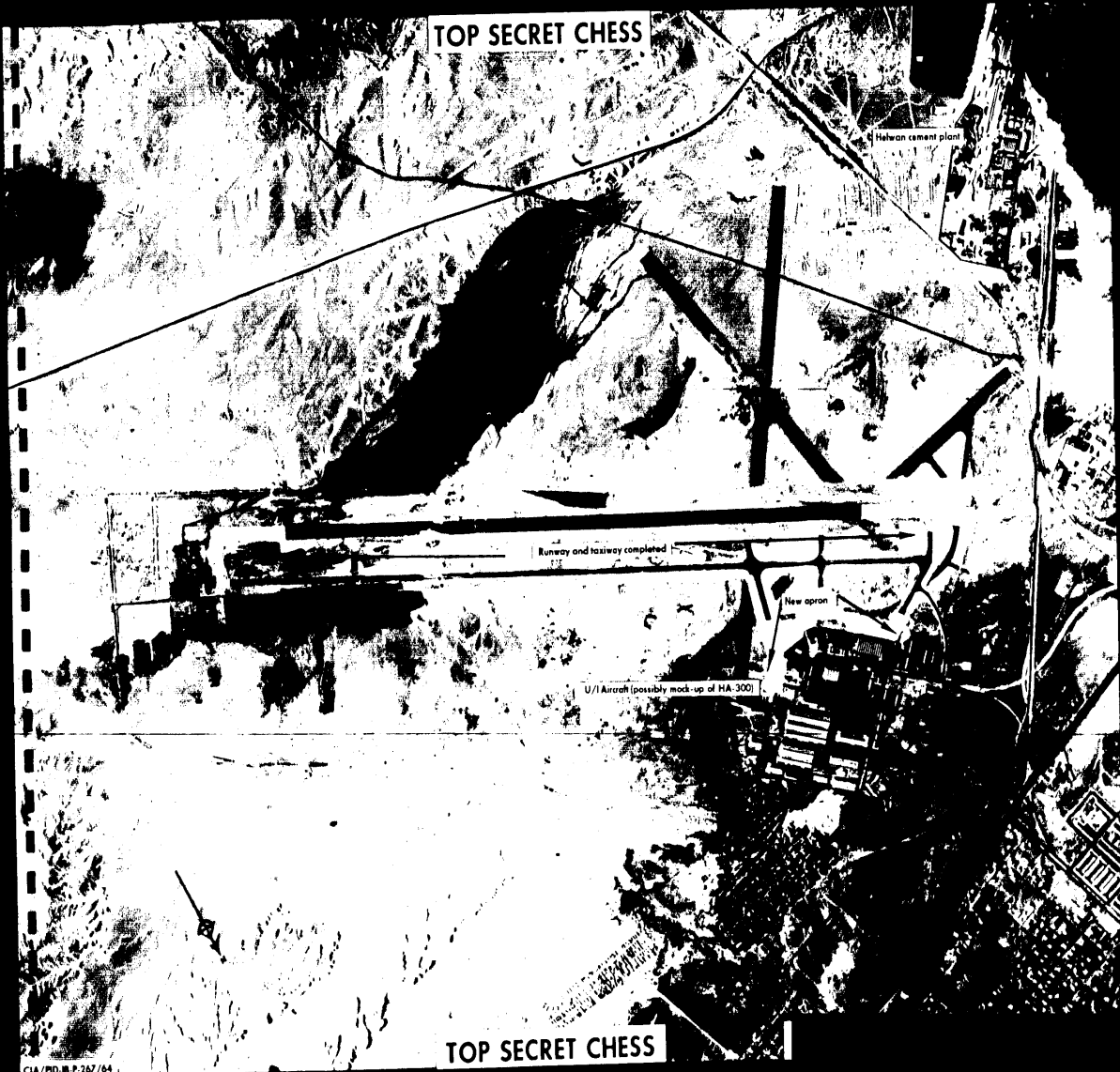
New runway and taxiway beam

Fuel monitors being installed

Main gate

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Possible Spanish CASA-202 transport aircraft

Bldgs removed

U/aircraft

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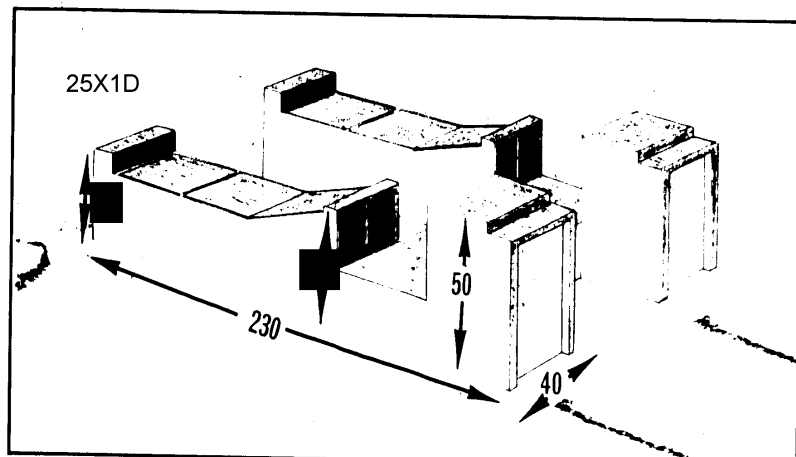
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TEST FACILITY, HELWAN AIRFIELD, EGYPT.

NPIC H-7564 (2/64)

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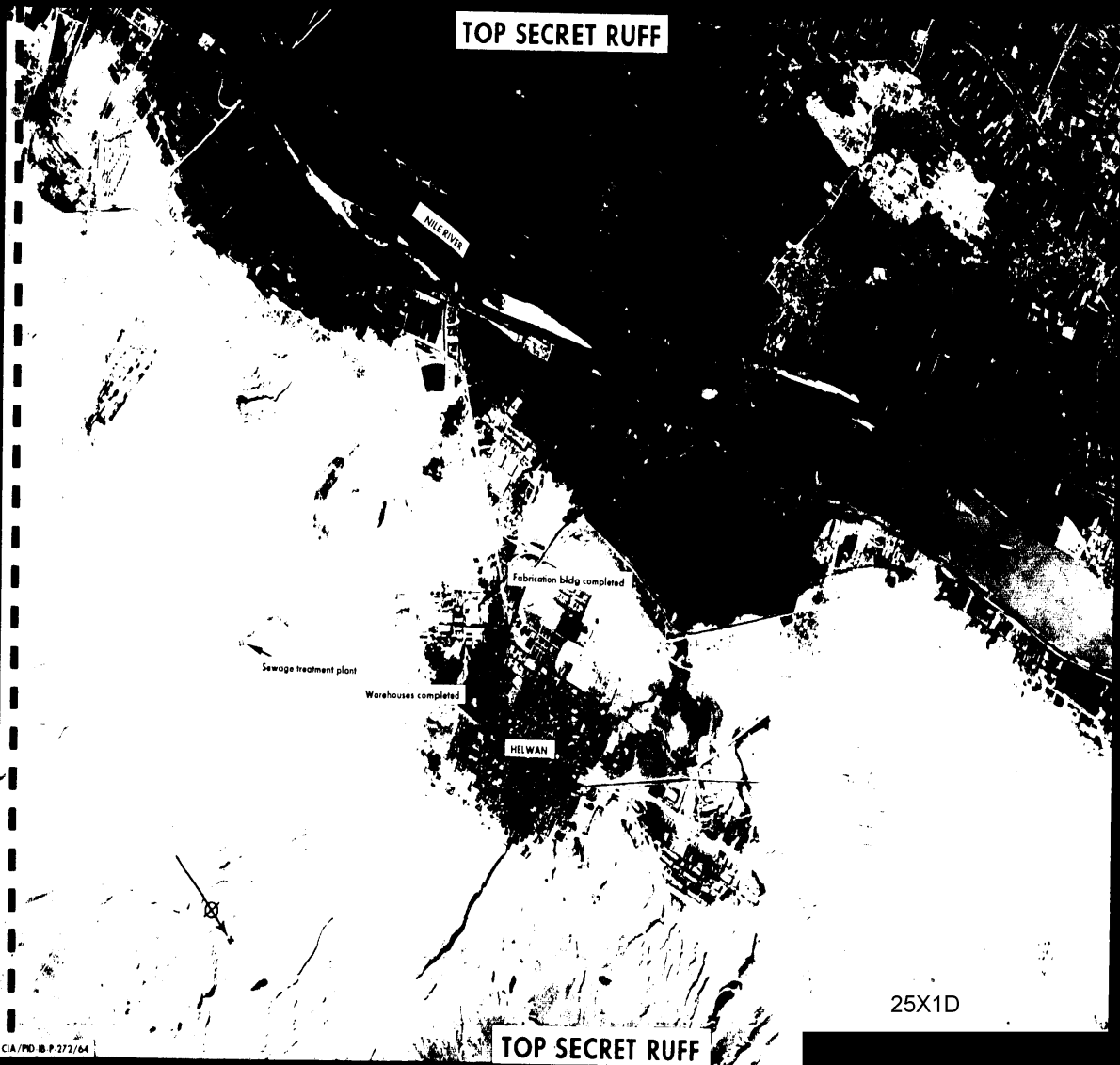
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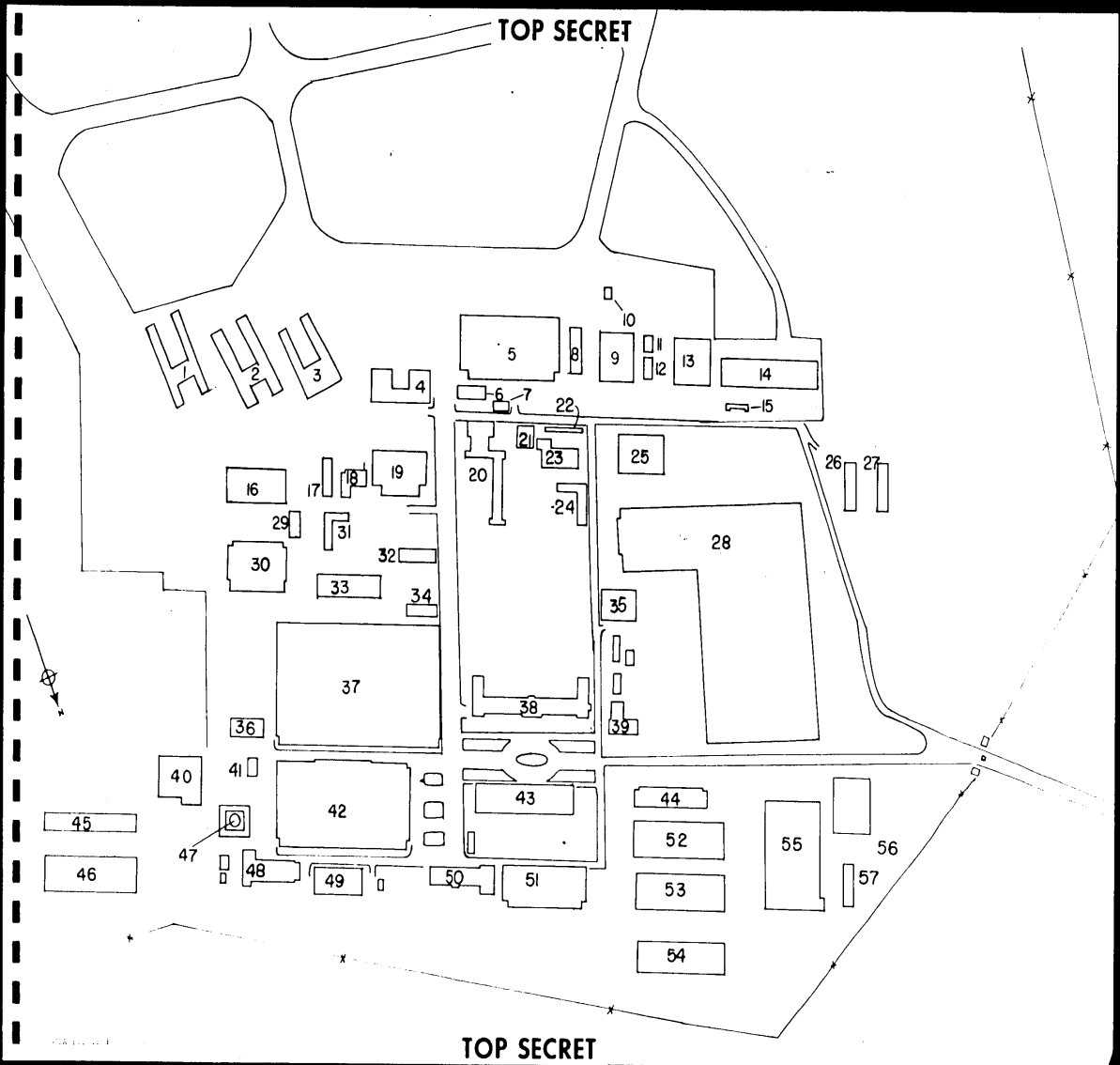
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