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Approved For Release 2001/03/03 : CIA-RDP78T05439A000300210047-8

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~~TOP SECRET RUFF~~

TCS #1286/64-KH  
PID/ABCB 29/64  
18 February 1964  
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**DECLASSIFICATION REVIEW  
BY NIMA / DoD**

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Atomic/Biological/Chemical Division, OSI

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ATTENTION: [REDACTED]

THRU: Chief, Requirements Branch, Reconnaissance  
Group, CGS

FROM: Chief, CIA/PID(NPIC)

SUBJECT: Search for Lithium Mining in the Voron'ye District,  
Kola Peninsula and Near Lake Poros, Karelia, USSR

REFERENCES: Requirement No. C-SI4-81,006  
CIA Project No. C 189-64

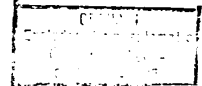
1. A search was conducted of very dark or cloudy photography of a wild mountainous region within a radius of 25 nautical miles (nm) centering on the hamlet of Voron'ye, 68-27N 35-21E, in the heart of the Kola Peninsula, for indications of mining or prospecting. Voron'ye is located 67 nm southeast of Murmansk, 55 nm ENE of Olen'ya, and 27 nm NNE of the mining town of Lovozero. Personnel and supplies for the Voron'ye region more frequently seem sent down the Voron'ye River by boat possibly from a landing 2 nm SE of Lovozero on Lake Lovozero at 67-59N 35-04E or from another road-served landing at Nivka, at 68-06N 35-08E. The harsh climate dictates the use of numerous refuge cabins and multiple choice in transportation routes on river and land. The trails could scarcely be seen on Mission [REDACTED] but on Mission [REDACTED] they are more legible because an occasional gravel bank has been excavated to provide in the meantime a small amount of road metal for what would seem to be a little heavier traffic. This is a pioneer district which seems to be very slowly progressing from the early geological or prospecting stage through a trenching period into the beginning of a proving or drilling campaign. Foodstuffs are provided to some extent by the Lovozero area and geological and drilling assistance by the large mining districts of Lovozero and Kirovsk. The presence of ground scars near the intermediate and forward unnamed small hutments may indicate that some supplies are parachuted by planes from the not very distant airfields at Kirovsk or Olen'ya.

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2. Nine nautical miles east of Voron'ye a zone of trenching is to be seen striking or trending discontinuously in a northwest-southeast direction, over a distance of 13 nm. The zone is about three-quarters of a mile in width. The zone has about 90 trenches and numerous scratchings on a series of seven hills, culminating in Gora Polmos in the southeast where 28 trenches have been dug. All except seven of

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the trenches trend or strike in a northeast-southwest direction at right angles to the zone of prospecting and as such probably represent mineralogically a late mineralization or filling of fractures or dislocations produced in a zone of structural weakness in the large crystalline intrusive rock mass. The northward flowing Voron'ye River probable owes its course to a through-going north-south break or fault which has cut off the zone of prospecting west of the river. No trenches are to be seen west of the Voron'ye River. There are four short, old east-west trail-served trenches north of Voron'ye on the west bank of the Voron'ye River, possibly for mineral prospecting. They do not seem related to the extensive prospected zone to the northeast. There are evidences of random small excavating or scarring of the massive crystalline rocks of the hill slopes of a series of hills south of Voron'ye along the east side of the Voron'ye River, indicating geological work but unsuccessful prospecting along the Voron'ye River north-south zone of structural weakness. The seven trenches striking northwest-southeast at 67-31N 35-35E show that torsional conditions accompanied the fracturing at its western end near the long north-south Voron'ye River zone of structural weakness.

3. No peat bogs or placer deposits were noted as places of mineral exploitation. At 67-28N 35-30E, a series of NE-SW trenches, representing the southern extension of trenches on the hill to the north, have been dug to test the mineral content of the sediments of a small un-named stream. The widely spaced trenches in the alluvial (stream) deposits from the weathered veins indicates some heavy minerals such as gold, or those containing tin or tungsten are still being sought.

4. No positive identification of the mining of lithium-bearing minerals in the Voron'ye region from overhead photography is possible at this time.

5. Two of the four main prospected areas have small housing areas of camps of cabins or low structures served by trails. The camps may well have been prisons in this a wild and remote region, as there is no need for perimeter fences. No auxiliary works as power plants, water works, or administration buildings are to be seen.

6. Voron'ye is a small riverside hamlet with two landings, and about 40 small structures on [REDACTED] having grown from about 20 structures on [REDACTED] there were 5 small

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dark pile like objects near the north landing which may represent piles of supplies, dug outs, or ore or coal, none being visible on Mission [REDACTED]. No spillage of ore or rock can be detected at the Voron'ye landings or the river landings near Nivka and Lovozero to the south. The samples must have been carefully handled and probable amounted to no more than a few hundred tons. The Voron'ye River was searched north of the hamlet and found to contain a number of rapids, as at 68-32N 35-19E and 68-38N 35-23E, around which short portages can be detected. Because of the rapids it is believed that the river supply and ore sample traffic would be more likely to ply from the south where it has easier access to technical and food supplies from the Kirov and Lovozero mining camps.

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7. Three nm north of Voron'ye, at 68-30N 35-25E, on the east bank of the Voron'ye River is a new unnamed base hutment area. The hutment area or base camp contains 28 huts, some of which may have been under construction in [REDACTED]. The hutment area is linked to the south to Voron'ye by a poor trail gravelled for a short distance north of the Voron'ye terminus.

8. The unnamed hutment area and Voron'ye are linked by a series of alternate trails, to an intermediate hutment area with ten cabins at 68-29N 35-36E. This intermediate base of hutment area is sited in an open pasture area for draft animals, with a possible drop marker symbol near the buildings. This unnamed intermediate hutment area serves an area of 17 NE-SW trenches and 4 NW-SE trending trenches and numerous scraped strips all located on a hill south of the buildings. A poorly gravelled road winds between the hills from the intermediate hutment area past a small gravel pit at 68-27N 35-43E, two small cabins at 68-22N 35-43E to an unnamed forward base or hutment area of also ten cabins on Gora Polmos at 68-20N 35-53E. The unnamed forward base or hutment area serves a nearby area having 28 NE-SW trending trenches, of which 6 are long trenches well in excess of 100 feet in length. The area just west of the cabins shows numerous very short trenches.

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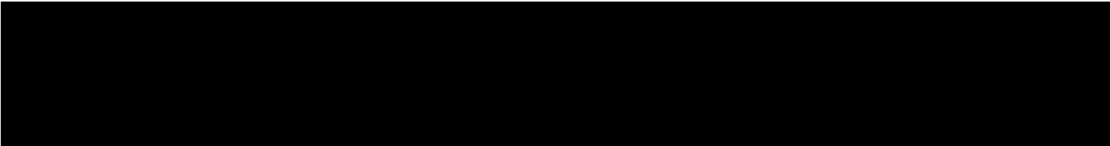
9. Since the Voron'ye area was first seen on Mission [REDACTED] on [REDACTED] missions have passed over the region. Unfortunately most of the missions encountered heavy clouds, snow, or poor contrast photographic conditions possibly due to humidity above a moss-rock-lake-stream environment. Low cabins with weathered roofs and muddy trails are difficult to identify. The following photography has been selected to show the developments in the Voron'ye region from the [REDACTED] missions:

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<u>Mission</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Frames</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Classification</u>
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The following maps and charts were used in the analysis of the Voron'ye region:

AMS, Series N501, Map NR 35, 36-12, Murmansk Map Sheet, Aug 1959, Scale, 1:250,000, Unclassified.  
ACTIC, Series 200, 0051-23AL, 2nd ed., Dec. 1959, 0051-24AL, 2nd ed., Sept. 1959, Scale, 1:200,000. Secret.

10. The region within a 8 nm radius of Lake Poros, Karelia, 62-30N 34-10E, was searched on the photography of [redacted] missions for evidences of mining, with negative results. Lake Poros is located 12 nm north of Kondopoga or 358 nm south of the previously described Voron'ye district or 23 nm SSW of Medvezh'yegorsk. The Lake Poros region is reminiscent of the pastoral or lumbered land of northern Wisconsin. No railway branch line has been constructed to the vicinity of Lake Poros. The trace of a power line running northwest of Kondopoga can be seen some distance west of Lake Poros but there is no evidence of a high-voltage branch line in the direction of Lake Poros.

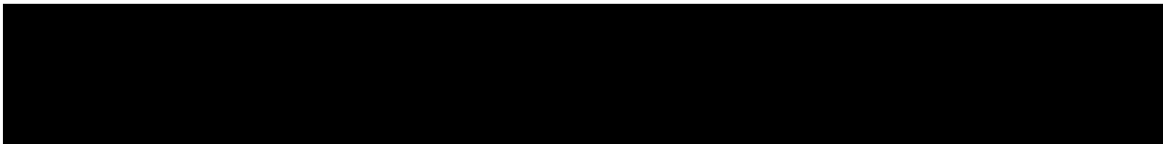
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11. It is suggested that a search be continued of the published geological reports on the Voron'ye region, for a large-scale map which may show the location of another Lake Poros where prospecting may have been successfully carried out.

12. Older photography was not consulted in the search of the Lake Poros region, as the later photography indicated no mining activity. Photography used in the search is as follows:

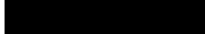
<u>Mission</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Pass</u>	<u>Frames</u>	<u>Quality</u>	<u>Classification</u>
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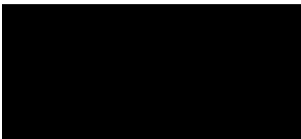
The following charts and maps were used in the search of the Lake Poros region:

AMS, Series N501, Map NP35, 36-8, the Kondopoga Map Sheet, 2nd ed., Sept 58, Scale 1:250,000. Unclassified.  
ACIC, Series 200, 0102-6HL, 3rd ed., Jun 63, Scale, 1:200,000.  
Secret.

13. The photo analyst on this project was  He may be contacted on extension 3472 should you have further questions regarding the requirement.

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14. This memorandum with enclosure completes the referenced requirement.

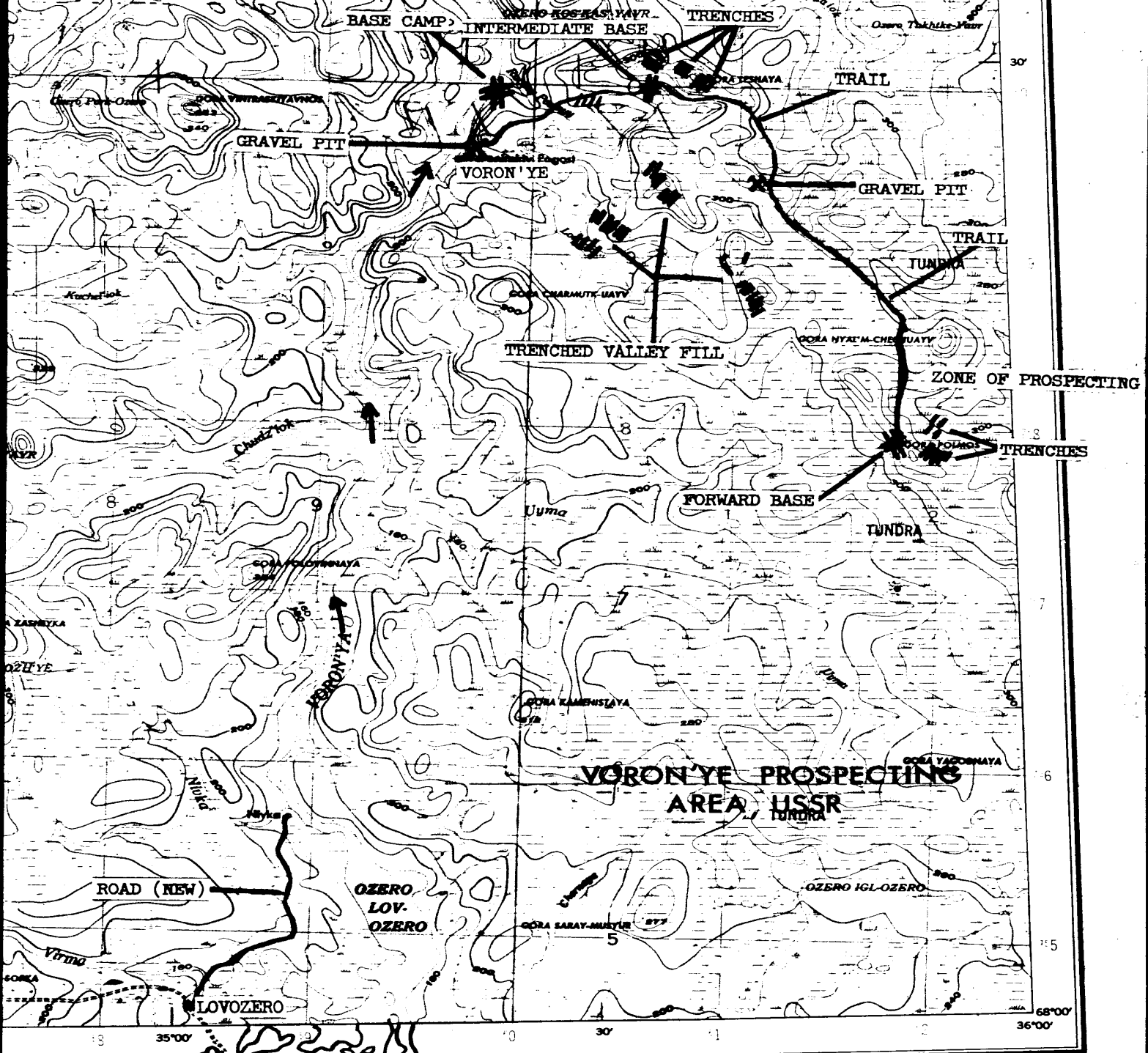


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Enclosure:

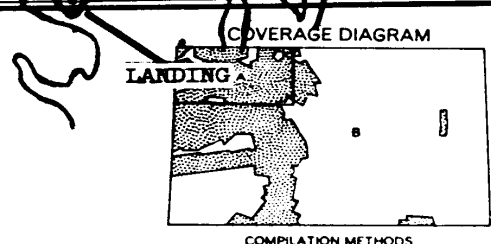
CIA/PID/ABCB/P-36-64 (Location Map with Annotations)

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AM.FOR NR 35,36-12

NR 35,36-8	NR 27,28-7
MURMANSK NR 35,36-12	NR 37,38-10
KIROVSK NR 35,36-4	LUMBOVA NR 37,38-10
LESNOY NR 37,38-8	OZERO VOLUYAN NR 37,38-10
AYAZUGA NR 35,36-8	AYAZUGA NR 37,38-10
AYAZUGA NR 35,36-8	AYAZUGA NR 37,38-10



COMPILATION METHODS

Photo-stereo	Photo-planimetric	Map
A. Medium scale compiled map, 1944, reliability good		

PRINTED BY ARMY MAP SERVICE, CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 8-59, 110122

VB	WB	XB	WB
VA	WA	XA	

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