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REFERENCE:

ATTACHMENT TO L-2351
29 NOVEMBER 1966
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BALLOON ACTIVITY
X. THUONG, NORTH VIETNAM
2036N 10552E

1. SIGNIFICANCE:

THIS BRIEFING BOARD DEPICTS BALLOON ACTIVITY IN THE VICINITY OF X.
THUONG VILLAGE.

2. LOCATION:

X. THUONG LIES AT UTM WH914785, 4.5 NM NORTH-NORTHWEST OF PHU LY AND
APPROXIMATELY FIFTY MILES SOUTHWEST OF HAI PHONG.

3. COLLATERAL:

COLLATERAL HAS REPORTED SEVERAL BALLOON SIGHTINGS DURING THE PAST
SEVERAL MONTHS. THE FIRST SUCH REPORT CONCERNED TWENTY-FIVE TETHERED
BALLOONS APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN MILES NORTHEAST OF HAI PHONG ON 5 AUGUST.
THEY APPEARED TO BE ABOUT TWELVE FEET IN DIAMETER AND TETHERED 3,000 FEET
ABOVE SEA LEVEL. SUBSEQUENT SIGHTINGS HAVE REPORTED FROM FOUR TO FIFTY
BALLOONS OF VARIOUS COLORS TETHERED AT NUMEROUS ALTITUDES RANGING FROM
1,500 TO 3,800 FEET, AND RANGING IN SIZE FROM FOUR TO TWELVE FEET. MOST
SIGHTINGS HAVE INVOLVED THE GENERAL AREA APPROXIMATELY EIGHTEEN MILES
NORTHEAST OF HAI PHONG. ESTIMATES OF THE PURPOSE OF SUCH DEPLOYMENTS
INCLUDE:

- A. DENIAL OF LOW LEVEL ACCESS TO SPECIFIC AREAS
- B. FORCING FLIGHTS OF ENEMY AIRCRAFT TO USE HIGHER FLIGHT LEVELS

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(WITHIN THE SAM ENVELOPE) OVER A GENERAL AREA.

- C. CHANNELING ATTACKING AIRCRAFT INTO HEAVILY DEFENDED AREAS
- D. USE AS A TARGET ACQUISITION AID FOR NON-RADAR CONTROLLED AAA GUNS.
- E. USE AS RADAR ANTENNAE TO MINIMIZE TERRAIN MASKING PROBLEMS FOR SAM RADAR OPERATORS.

THERE ARE NO KNOWN TARGETS IN THE IMMEDIATE VICINITY OF X. THUONG;
HOWEVER, SEVERAL SAM SITES ARE WITHIN A TWENTY MILE RADIUS.

4. MISSION READOUT:

MISSION [REDACTED] REVEALS THREE BALLOONS 25X1

IN THE VICINITY OF X. THUONG. ONE IS LOCATED AT UTM WH912784 IN AN AREA CONTAINING ONE LARGE BUILDING AND FIVE SMALL BUILDINGS. THE SECOND IS LOCATED IN A CIRCULAR AREA AT UTM WH916785. THIS AREA CONTAINS ONE LARGE BUILDING AND FIFTEEN SMALLER STRUCTURES. AN UNIDENTIFIED OBJECT IS LOCATED IN THE CENTER OF THIS AREA AND A MINOR PAGODA IS LOCATED ADJACENT TO THE AREA. THE THIRD BALLOON IS IN THE AIR AND APPEARS TO BE UNTETHERED. THERE IS NO VISIBLE EVIDENCE OF TIE-DOWNS OR CABLES.

[REDACTED]

ALL UTM COORDINATES ARE TAKEN FROM AMS L7014 SERIES, SHEET 6150 II.

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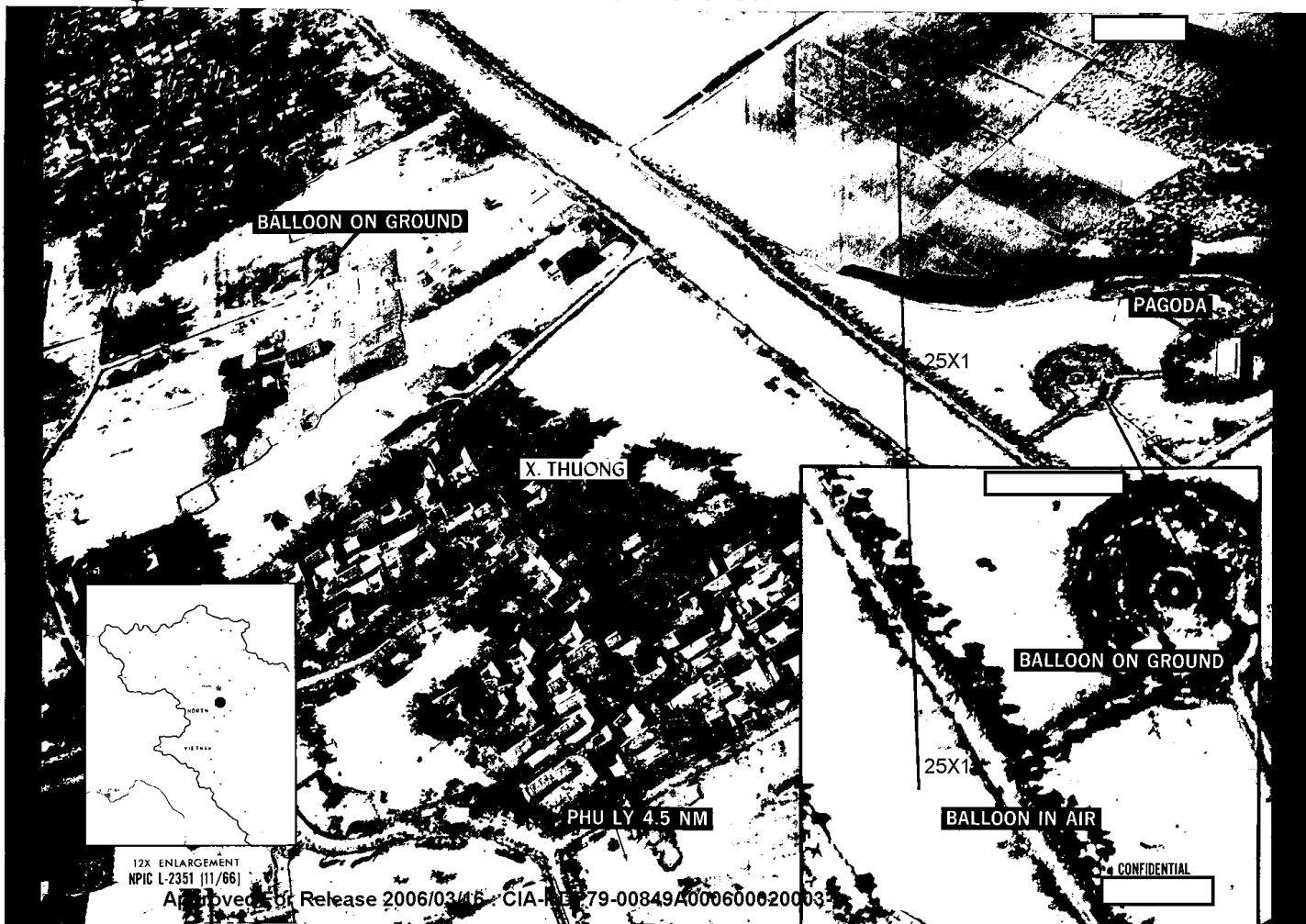
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BALLOON ACTIVITY X. THUONG, NORTH VIETNAM 20-36N 105-52E

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12X ENLARGEMENT
NPIC L-2351 (11/66)

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