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CURRENT INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

DOCUMENT NO. 31
NO CHANGE IN CLASS ☒
☐ DECLASSIFIED
CLASS. CHANGED TO: TS S C
NEXT REVIEW DATE: 2010
AUTH: HR 70-2
DATE: 14 Jan 80 REVIEWER:

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OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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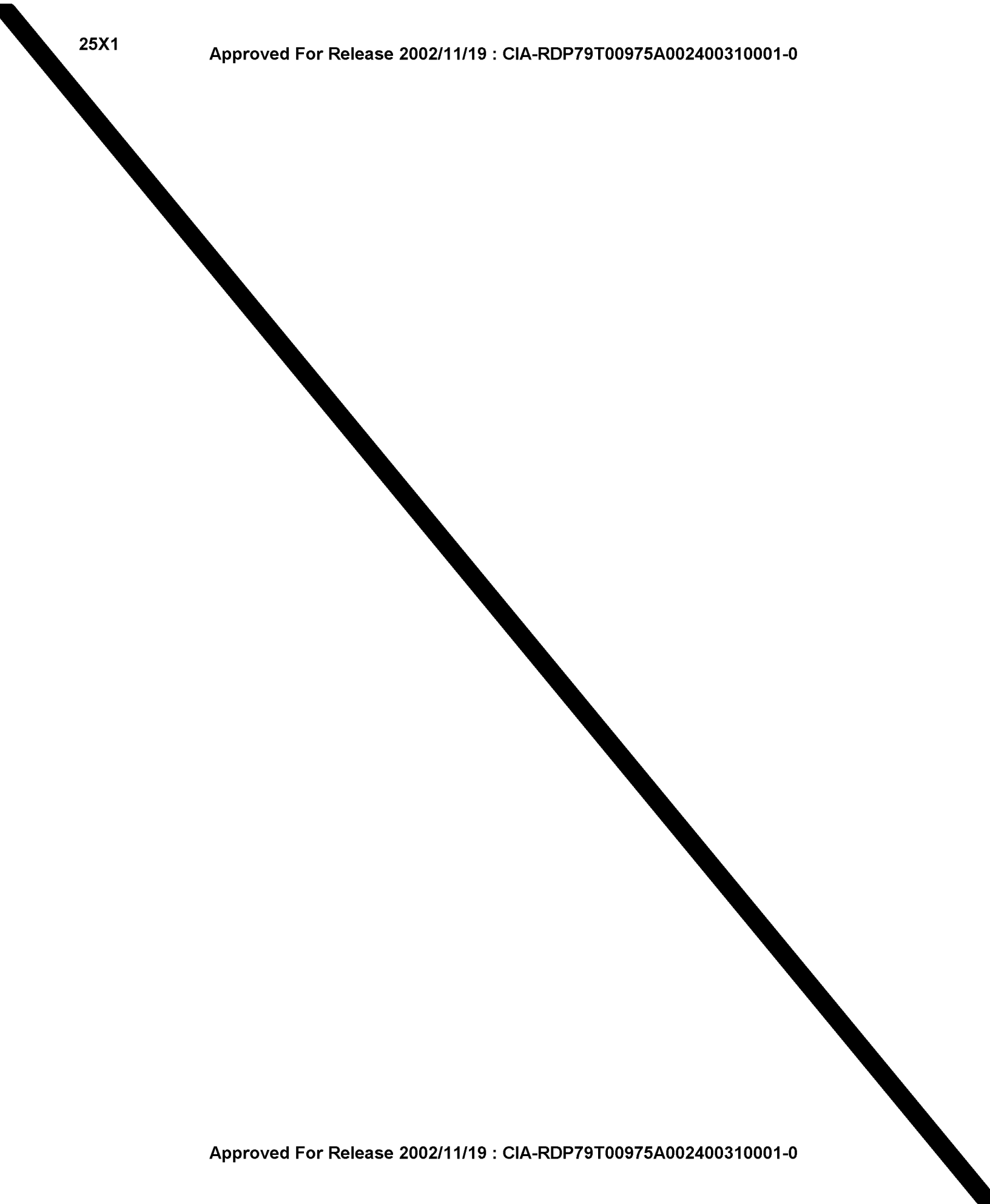

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25X1A [redacted]

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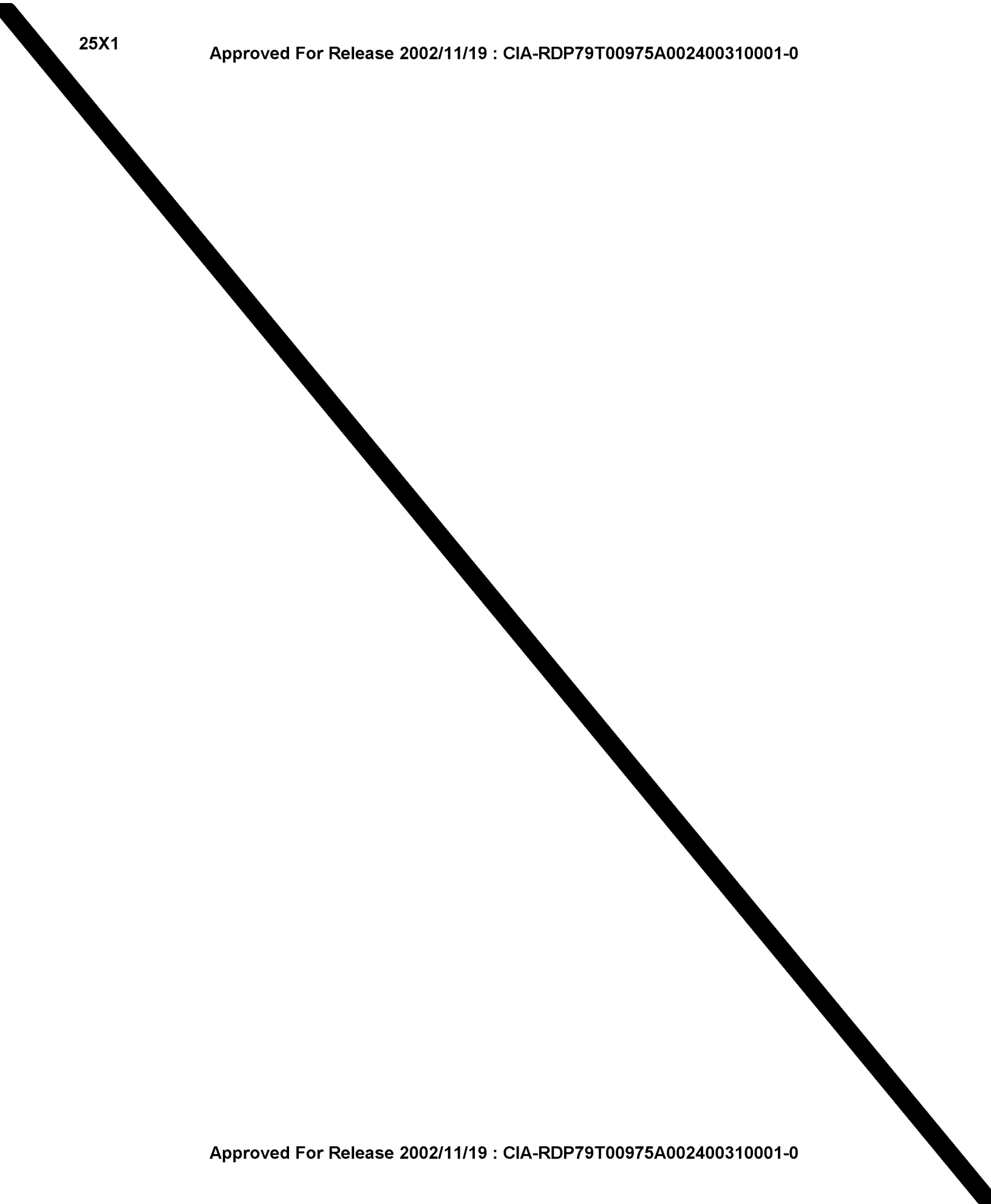

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2. AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONTEMPLATING PROTEST TO BONN ON BALLOON OVERFLIGHTS

25X1A

Austrian foreign minister Figl told American officials in Vienna on 23 February he was contemplating a protest to the West German government on propaganda balloon overflights of Austrian territory. He referred to charges in the Soviet press that the United States had violated Austrian neutrality by troop movements and overflights of military planes and balloons. He said he would deny the charge on troop movements and hoped to avoid commenting on overflights, but added that the balloon issue was a very uncomfortable one for Austria.

American officials believe the balloons are not only embarrassing the Austrian government but are causing anti-American feeling in Austria and that Austria might terminate Radio Free Europe activities there.

Comment — Vienna is very sensitive to any criticism of Austria's conduct of its policy of neutrality. Action against Radio Free Europe would offset the expulsion of the Communist-sponsored World Federation of Trade Unions early this month. A protest to Bonn would counter Soviet charges that Austria's neutrality is being violated without protest from Vienna.

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7. SOVIET EMBASSY OFFICIALS IN MEXICO TO MAKE SECOND TRIP TO SOUTH AMERICA

25X1A

[redacted] Ambassador Kulazhenkov and First Secretary Kazantsev of the Soviet embassy in Mexico City are scheduled to depart by air on 27 February for Argentina, [redacted]

25X1

Comment

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The Argentine ambassador in Washington stated recently that the two Soviet representatives were planning an "immediate" four-day visit to Buenos Aires as guests of the Soviet ambassador there. The Soviet ambassadors may be planning to co-ordinate their efforts for future approaches on the diplomatic level to Latin American governments in support of Soviet premier Bulganin's public bid on 16 January for diplomatic and economic relations with Latin America.

Kulazhenkov and Kazantsev visited Ecuador two months ago on their first trip in Latin America outside of Mexico. They expressed interest in establishing diplomatic relations and reportedly made "attractive" offers of arms and economic assistance to the Velasco government.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 24 February)

An exchange of fire between Egyptian and Israeli patrols along the Gaza strip has been reported by Cairo.

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Syrian chief of staff Shuqayr told the American army attaché on 22 February that an agreement in principle has been reached with Czechoslovakia to supply arms. All that remains to be done is to select the types and quantities desired. Shuqayr said the total amount of money involved was not known, but he believed Syria would get all the arms it needs.

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